Trillanes papers say GMA weak, Navy corrupt

Story below, Col. 1

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

AFP

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL:
I will do everything to make sure that the future will be kind to Mikaela and her generation.

Allies, foes convinced GMA running in 2004

By Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

LEADERS of both the majority and minority blocs in the Senate are now convinced that President Macapagal-Arroyo is running in the 2004 presidential election.

"I noticed that she did not say good-

ALLIES/ A13

Tuesday, July 29, 2003 ★★ 42 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 231 P15 website: www.inq7.net

2 bodies formed to probe mutiny, Davao bombings

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A DAY after peacefully facing down a mutiny, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the creation of an independent commission to investigate the renegade soldiers' allegation that defense and military officials were behind the bombings in Davao City in April. The bombing of the city's airport and wharf left 38 people dead.

Another independent commission will look into the roots of the mutiny. The President said she would also create a Philippine National Reform Commission to overhaul the Philippine National Police following the escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from the PNP headquarters.

Congress wants to conduct its own probe of the mutiny.

The Senate will convene itself as a committee of the whole, but the House of

2 BODIES/ A11

PRESIDENTIAL granddaughter Mikaela Arroyo steals the show at her lola's Sona. EDWIN BACASMAS

Top Erap aide arrested

Police seize arms, ammo, rebel gear in Dasma house

By TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza, and Cynthia Balana

POLICE yesterday arrested a key aide of deposed President Joseph Estrada—former chief of the Presidential Management Staff Ramon "Eki" Cardenas—and vowed to use emergency powers to detain other Estrada allies allegedly involved in Sunday's failed military mutiny.

In Cardenas' house in Dasmariñas Village in Makati City, police officers said they found one M-14 and three M-16 assault rifles, plus ammunition and red armbands similar to those worn by the mutineers who seized the Oakwood hotel and Glorietta commercial center over the weekend.

Someone who was approached by the mutineers to join the military action told the INQUIRER it was evident the mutiny was funded by moneyed individuals. He cited the use of new radio communications equipment that could not have come from the Armed Forces inventory, and expensive Camelback water pouches.

The officers described the posh Cardenas residence as a "staging area or safehouse" for the mutineers. It was the second such staging area they found, after a three-story apartment in Mandaluyong City that belonged to Estrada and his mistress Laarni Enriquez yielded similar paraphernalia.

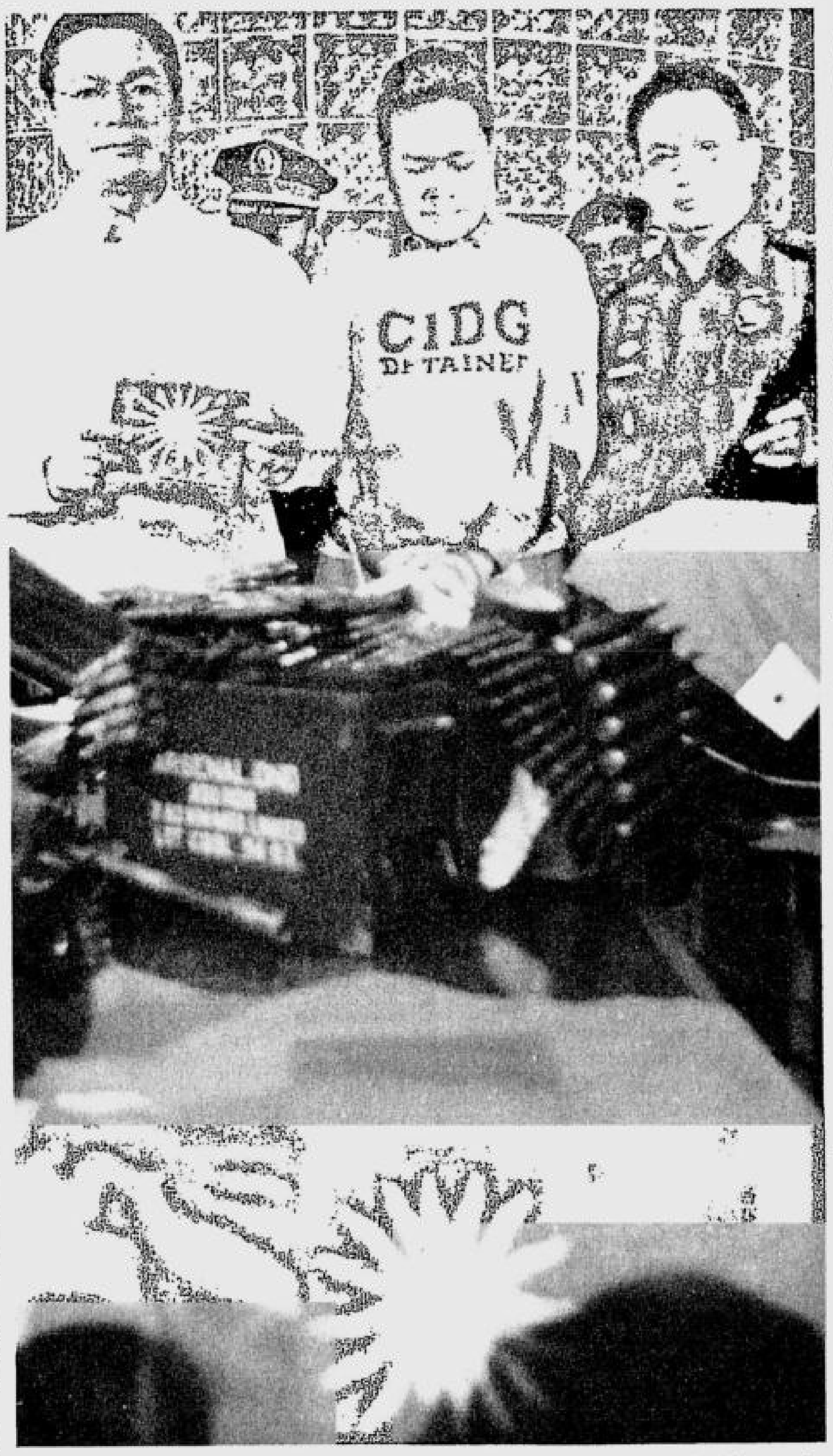
In Malacañang, ranking officials said they were convinced that Estrada was behind Sunday's military crisis, which they called a failed coup attempt.

When asked if the authorities had already established Estrada's links to the mutiny, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said, "The links are becoming very obvious."

Golez added: "In preparation for a possible unauthorized military movement, we were tracing all these (staging areas). A lot of these led to the doorsteps of the former administration."

Police escorted Cardenas into a news conference following the raid on his home. In handcuffs and a yellow police detainee shirt, Cardenas declined to answer reporters' questions, except to deny

TOP/ A16



KEY Estrada ally Ramon "Eki" Cardenas, handcuffed and in a detainee's yellow garb, is presented to media by NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco and CIDG chief Deputy Director Eduardo Matillano. ERIK ARAZAS

Swift, bloodless end softens stocks, peso fall

By Doris C. Dumlao
Business

FOR a while, it looked like the peso and local stocks would take a severe beating following the mutiny by about 300 soldiers who seized a Makati commercial complex on Sunday.

The peso yesterday fell to 54.60 to the US dollar minutes after the opening of trade at the Philippine Dealing System. The main Philippine Stock Exchange index followed suit, plunging more than 4 percent.

At the end of the trading day, however, fear and volatility ebbed in the financial markets.

The peso bounced from its early morning low without any central bank intervention. The local currency closed with a loss of just 0.7 percent at 54.38 to the dollar.

Blue chips recovered faster, with the Phisix giving up just 27.04 points, or 2.1 percent, to close at 1,256.76. Value turnover reached P935.47 million.

The swift and bloodless end to the mutiny mitigated the damage to the country's reputation as well as the finan-

SWIFT/ A4

Who's Eki? He can't harm a fly, says pal

By Juliet L. Javellana

"HE has the balls for that?"

One of Ramon "Eki" Cardenas' former colleagues couldn't help but laugh when told the ex-deputy executive secretary of the Estrada administration was suspected of helping stage an armed rebellion.

Those who know Cardenas describe him as a "very religious person"—as "one who could not even harm a fly."

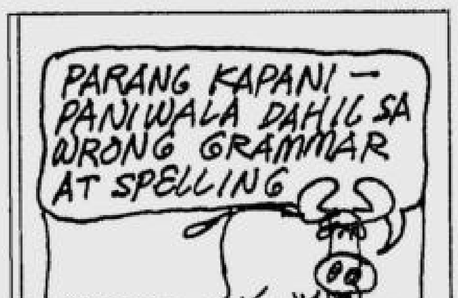
"He's the last person you would suspect of being involved in violence," said Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla, spokesperson of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino. Remulla worked with Cardenas in the Presidential Management Staff during Estrada's time.

Another Estrada administration official said, "*Nerbyoso 'yon* (He doesn't have steady nerves). He is very religious. In fact, he has priests for friends."

Another Estrada-era official, however, said Cardenas had another face.

"He can be very sweet and kind but that's only appearances, he's a wicked

WHO'S/ A16


PARANG KAPANI-PANIWALA DAHIL SA WRONG GRAMMAR AT SPELLING

Internet scam uses Erap name to lure unwary

SINGAPORE—A woman claiming to be the wife of jailed ex-Philippine President Joseph Estrada is offering greedy victims a share of $30 million in the latest Internet scam styled on the famous Nigerian setups.

The mass e-mail, supposedly written by Sen. Ma. Luisa "Loi" Estrada, raised an alert at global security firm Hill and Associates after it was sent directly to one of its Asian offices on Monday, a risk analyst with the company, Bruce Gale, said.

INTERNET/ A4

Estrada denies role in mutiny: I'm being set up

By Armand N. Nocum and Volt Contreras

WERE rebel soldiers planning to bring deposed President Joseph Estrada back to power?

Estrada yesterday laughed off the claim.

"They should address the grievances, instead of looking for someone to blame," he said, adding that the charges were "serious," especially those made against Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

In another interview, however, Estrada waxed indignant, vehemently denying any role in the failed Sunday mutiny even after authorities found alleged evidence in a house he owned with mistress Laarni Enriquez and in the Dasmariñas Village residence of his top aide Ramon "Eki" Cardenas.

"I'm being set up and forcibly being implicated," the deposed President told the INQUIRER in Filipino, hours after Cardenas was arrested.

"I don't know anything about that; have not seen Eki nowadays. He just

ESTRADA/ A16

GMA weak, Navy corrupt—Trillanes papers

By Stella O. Gonzales

NAVY Lt. Senior Grade Antonio F. Trillanes IV, spokesperson of the Makati mutineers, wrote two papers on corruption in the military as part of his masteral studies at the University of the Philippines. They earned him death threats.

The first paper was more controversial than the second as it criticized the Commander-in-Chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, as being weak. It pictured Ms Macapagal as someone who was deeply indebted to the Armed Forces of the Philippines and who, as a result, would look the other way.

The second paper, "Corruption in the Philippine Navy Procurement System," written in March 2002, was based on a survey of 30 dealers and suppliers who admitted that there was systematic corruption in the procurement process in the Navy.

The dealers ranked the Naval Sea Systems Command and the Naval Logistics Center as the most corrupt among the units included in the study. Ironically, Trillanes noted, all the dealers perceived the Commission on Audit,

GMA WEAK/ A6

PELAEZ: General, what's happening to our country?

Former Vice President Maning Pelaez dies; 87

By Jerome Aning

"HE expressed his nationalism not in his public rhetoric but through love and service to the country while remaining faithful to his view of the Philippines as a member of a larger global community."

FORMER/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/29/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Senators demand Reyes' head

By Christine O. Avendaño, Cynthia D. Balana and TJ Burgonio

OPPOSITION senators yesterday called on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes to resign, or at least take a leave of absence, after Malacañang formed an independent body and the Senate moved to investigate the failed mutiny mounted by disgruntled junior military officers against the administration on Sunday.

But the man in the hot seat said, "I'll go when it's time to go."

Reyes was interviewed by the INQUIRER at the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address before Congress yesterday.

He said he would consider giving up the defense portfolio at the right time.

"I will think about it later. When do I decide? When the time is ripe," he said.

He stressed, however, that he had no political plans at the moment and the text messages circulating seeking approval of his "plan" to run for president next year were part of a campaign to discredit him.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. had said earlier that Reyes was being considered for the senatorial slate of the People Power Coalition. Reyes, however, denied any knowledge of this.

He admitted being saddened by recent events, particularly the mutiny of the young officers who took over the Oakwood Hotel complex in Makati.

When asked why he appeared to be always under siege, Reyes said it came with the territory.

He said some political personalities may mistake his firm position on certain issues as a sign of arrogance.

He said he was surprised to hear a leader of the mutinous soldiers, Navy Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV, say he was behind the bombings in Davao City.

"You know me pretty well. I'm not capable of that," Reyes said.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said Reyes should "definitely" resign following the young officers' call for his head for his alleged involvement in the sale of arms and ammunition to enemies of the State, among other allegations.

Osmeña reminded reporters he had opposed Reyes' confirmation as defense secretary during Commission on Appointments hearings where he brought up the issue of eight corruption cases filed against the nominee.

Eight cases

Among the eight cases, Osmeña said, were Reyes' alleged involvement in the overpricing of the government's purchase of C-130 airplanes, 20 police dogs at P2 million each and military helmets.

Despite this, Osmeña said, the CA confirmed Reyes and no investigation was conducted of the issue he had raised.

Sen. John Osmeña urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to sack Reyes and follow the example of former President Corazon Aquino who sacked her defense secretary, Juan Ponce Enrile, for his involvement in coup attempts against her administration in the 1980s.

"You know there is a striking parallel in this case," Osmeña said. "JPE was at Edsa with Sen. Gringo Honasan, and at Edsa II, it was Reyes who betrayed his commander in chief (Joseph Estrada) and turned the government over to GMA."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the government should look into the junior officers' demand not only for Reyes' head but also those of military intelligence chief Gen. Victor Corpuz and PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

Lacson, however, said he wasn't buying the young officers' claim that Reyes was involved in the sale of arms and ammunition to Moro and communist rebels, saying there were other money-making ventures that generals could go into.

Go on leave

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged Reyes to go on leave while he was the subject of an investigation.

"Going on leave would dispel the suspicion that he might use his office to suppress evidence or intimidate witnesses," Pimentel said in a statement.

He said he had previously called on the President to sack Reyes but he didn't know how she would respond to the renewed calls in the wake of Sunday's mutiny.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he would leave to the President the decision to sack Reyes, Corpuz and Ebdane.

Biazon and Sen. Vicente Sotto, who along with Sen. Gregorio Honasan helped broker the talks between the government and the mutineers, said the officers had sought the resignations of Reyes and the two others as their "minimum and doable" demand to the government.

Sotto said the mutineers also wanted the government to investigate the series of bombings in the country because some military officers were involved.

Sotto said one of the mutineers, Army Capt. Milo Maestrecampo, told him he had been ordered to throw a grenade at a Moslem mosque at the time the Sasa wharf in Davao City was bombed early this year.

He said Maestrecampo gave him the names of the two military officers who gave him the order but he did not identify them to reporters.

'All officers must feel responsible for mutiny'

"ALL officers – incumbent or retired, junior or senior – must feel a sense of responsibility for what has happened."

Former President Fidel V. Ramos said this yesterday when asked if he felt responsible for the audacity of junior military officers who launched a mutiny over the weekend.

Ramos led the February 1986 coup d'etat that felled the Marcos dictatorship, a feat perceived to have led to increased military adventurism in the country.

During a briefing in Malacañang, Ramos said the failed mutiny should send a strong message to the Philippine Military Academy. "(It) must not suffer any more stains on its reputation through actions of this nature by its alumni."

Ramos was hopeful that "some good could still come out of this."

Militant congressmen cautioned the public against making hasty judgement against the mutineers, saying the charges against their superiors should be looked into.

In a joint statement, Sanlakas Rep. JV Bautista and Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo, said they supported the creation of an independent commission for a full-dress probe.

"The young officers have presented themselves as material witnesses to (their) accusations. It is in the interest of the nation to face the issues they have raised," the statement said.

"Look into their grievances and preserve democracy," Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, also urged the government. Speaking on Radio Veritas, Quevedo said the people should continue to be vigilant against corruption in government.

Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez, chair of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Social Action,

Justice and Peace, said the government should institute "lasting and genuine reforms, especially in addressing corruption." He said the recent siege should be seen as a sign "that our efforts at good governance are still wanting."

Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas shared this view, saying the coup attempt was a wake-up call. In a statement, Villegas, spokesperson of Jaime Cardinal Sin and rector of the Edsa Shrine, said "all grievances" should be attended to. *Gil C. Cabacungan, Martin P. Marfil, Blanche S. Rivera, Norman Bordadora, Michael Lim Ubac*

SOME of the rebel soldiers with a cause flash the victory sign at the end of their one-day occupation of the Oakwood Premier, as they are taken in military trucks to nearby Fort Bonifacio to be processed.

BOY CABRIDO

When is a coup not a coup? Ex-Senator Salonga explains

By Jerome Aning

FORMER Senator Jovito Salonga, author of the 1994 law defining a coup d'etat, yesterday said what happened in Makati City should not be called a coup but a simple rebellion or mutiny, in accordance with Republic Act No. 6968, which amends Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code.

RA 6968 says rebellion or insurrection is committed "by rising and taking arms against the Government for the purpose of removing from the allegiance to said Government or its laws, the territory of the Republic of the Philippines or any part thereof, of any body of land, naval or other armed forces, or depriving the Chief Executive or the Legislature, wholly or partially, of any of their powers or prerogatives."

In contrast, a coup d'etat is defined as "a swift attack accompanied by violence, intimidation, threat, strategy or stealth, directed against duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines . . . by any person or persons, belonging to the military or police or holding any public office or employment, with or without civilian support or participation, for the purpose of seizing or diminishing state power."

Salonga, in a phone interview, said under the law, leaders of coups and rebellions face the penalty of reclusion perpetua, or up to 20 years in prison.

A person merely participating or executing the commands of others in a rebellion or insurrection shall suffer the penalty of reclusion temporal, or up to 12 years in jail.

Those in government service who participate, or execute directions or commands of others in undertaking a coup d'etat shall suffer the penalty of reclusion temporal in its maximum period, or up to 16 years. Those not in the government service who participate, or in any manner support, finance, abet or aid in undertaking a coup d'etat shall suffer the penalty of prison mayor at its maximum period, or up to 12 years.

Curiously, RA 6968 remedies a quandary that took place after most of the previous coups in the country. The law said that when the rebellion, insurrection, or coup shall be under the command of unknown leaders, "any person who in fact directed the others, spoke for them, signed receipts and other documents issued in their name, or performed similar acts, on behalf of the rebels shall be deemed the leader of such rebellion, insurrection, or coup d'etat."

Salonga's comments came as media experts pondered, in retrospect, the right term to use for Sunday's incident. Broad sheets, including this paper, called the event the "Makati Crisis." The country's main television stations, ABS-CBN and GMA, called it "Coup Alert" and "Banta ng Kudeta (coup threat)."

The former senator explained that incident could not be called a coup because it was exposed prematurely and did not garner more support from the armed forces and from the public.

"By the time the soldiers staked out in Makati, the coup had degenerated into a simple act of rebellion or mutiny," he said.

If the reverse happened, that is, when rebels or coup plotters increase in number, take control of a large territory, and obtain popular support, the event becomes a revolution, as what happened in 1986, Salonga added.

Oakwood survives but not mall kiosk owners

By Alcuin Papa and Margaux Ortiz

ALL'S WELL that ends well—well, almost.

Officials of the Oakwood Premier in Makati City breathed a sigh of relief yesterday after learning that the rebel soldiers who had occupied the luxury apartment-hotel for a day did not loot it.

Al Legaspi, spokesperson for the high-priced residential complex, told the INQUIRER that "everything was accounted for and in good order. *Wala naman silang binaboy* (Nothing was defiled)."

Legaspi said operations of the hotel were "back to normal."

Another employee told the INQUIRER the Oakwood staff worked through the night and into yesterday morning to prepare the hotel for its "come-backing" guests who were forced to evacuate their suites at the height of the takeover.

Security was tight at the hotel with media and other outsiders barred from entering the premises.

The Oakwood Premier Ayala Center opened in November 1999. It has 26 floors which house 306 rooms. Its Web site boasts that it is "the only luxury-service apartment complex located within the Ayala Center business district."

But food kiosk owners at the Glorietta Mall at the base of the hotel were not so lucky.

Police said that several kiosk operators complained of missing food items, like waffles, rice cakes, bread and Indonesian delicacies.

SPO4 Jun Asinas, officer-in-charge of the Makati police theft and robbery section, said: "The soldiers even cooked rice at one booth selling a rice mix."

Asinas said one clothing store reported losing two shirts, while a cell phone store lost six cell phones and at least P15,000 worth of prepaid cards.

He said the main suspects were the rebel soldiers. "They probably used the cell phones and prepaid cards to contact their families."

Asinas also said the suspects took tools like screwdrivers and hammers and used these to get at the cell phones.

But the investigator said that some of the kiosk owners told the police to forego their investigation because they felt sorry for the "hungry rebel soldiers."

A statement from the Ayala Center yesterday said Oakwood and Ayala Center mall operations were back to normal.

Australian envoy still happy with security in RP

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

AMBASSADOR Ruth Pearce, Australian envoy to Manila, yesterday said she still felt safe in the Philippines even after being caught in a Makati hotel that became the stage for a mutiny by young military officers last Sunday.

"I'm very happy with the security that we have here," Pearce said following a briefing of the diplomatic corps by Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople.

Pearce, 10 other Australians and over 300 other guests of the Oakwood luxury apartments at the Glorietta shopping complex, were trapped for more than six hours after about 300 junior military officers and elite troops took over the building.

The envoy believed it was merely a coincidence that the rebels had picked a place where Australians were staying. "It just happened" that she was at Oakwood, Pearce said, because her official residence was being renovated.

Still, the incident prompted the Australian government to issue another travel advisory telling Australians to exercise "extreme caution" while in the Philippines, particularly in areas frequented by foreigners.

Australia's opposition Labor Party head Simon Crean called for a regional summit on terrorism and security.

"I still want all the leaders in the (Asia-Pacific) region to work out an action plan . . . to crack down on terrorism and . . . try it together," Crean told a Sydney radio station.

And while US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said the rebellion did not appear to be a real threat to the government, he also issued an advisory urging Americans in the Philippines to avoid public gatherings.

Britons and New Zealanders were likewise counseled by their governments to consider postponing trips here.

Neighboring countries hailed the collapse of the weekend uprising.

"We are pleased (that the) crisis has been diffused peacefully and swiftly," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said.

Fil-Am pledge

At the height of the Oakwood siege, the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA) was the first foreign-based group to issue a statement supporting "the duly constituted government of the Philippines under President Macapagal-Arroyo."

NaFFAA national chair Loida Nicolas-Lewis was in Manila at the time. Interviewed on television, the New York-based businesswoman said, "I cannot understand why there are so many so-called leaders without a sense of nationhood. (The rebels) may have had legitimate grounds but their means to redress was a naked power grab."

The statement also read: "Violence is not the answer. Let us all work together for a strong, democratic, Constitutional Republic of the Philippines."

It was signed by 32 Filipino community leaders from across the US, among them: Greg Makabenta of Daly City, Alex Escalamado of Las Vegas, Lourdes Corraless of New Jersey, Jonathan Melegrito of Washington D.C., Stella Evangelista of Michigan, Donna Lavigne of Colorado, Arlene Machetta of Texas, and Ron Menor of Honolulu.

Peace talks seen later in week

THE STALLED peace negotiations between the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) will resume later this week, Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople announced yesterday.

Ople said the Malaysian Cabinet will take up on Wednesday the Philippine request for that country to head the peace monitoring team that would oversee implementation of a cease-fire during the peace talks.

"The talks will begin a few days after that," Ople said, estimating this to be between Aug. 2 and 4.

Malaysia had agreed to host the peace talks which aims to forge a political solution to the Moro insurgency in Mindanao. The negotiations are supported by the United States, which pledged $30 million toward the peace process.

Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines Mohammad Taufik said he foresaw a resumption of the peace talks in 10 days.

"I have reason to believe this is probable," Taufik said. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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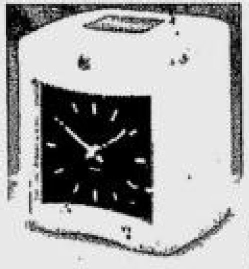

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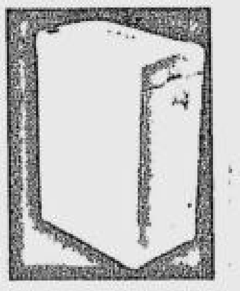

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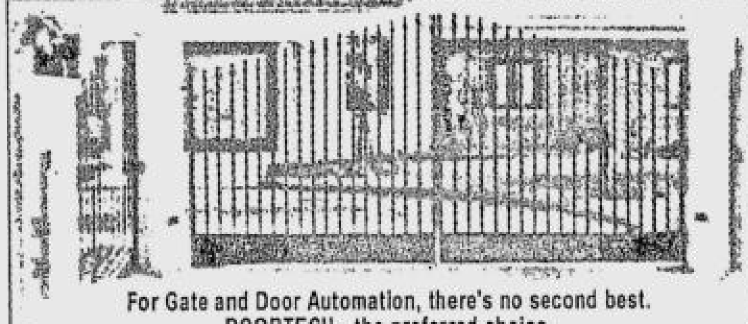

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   a. Cory Quirino
   b. Tina Juan
   c. Jaime T. Licauco
   d. Anne A. Jambora
3. Which member of the trio Destiny's Child has shot to stardom?
   a. Beyonce
   b. Michelle
   c. Eve
   d. Ashanti
4. This competition gathers the country's best college debaters
   a. Inquirer Educational Tours
   b. Inquirer's Logic Contest
   c. Inquirer Seminar Series
   d. Inquirer Intercollegiate Debating Championship
5. The country's number 1 most visited website worldwide.
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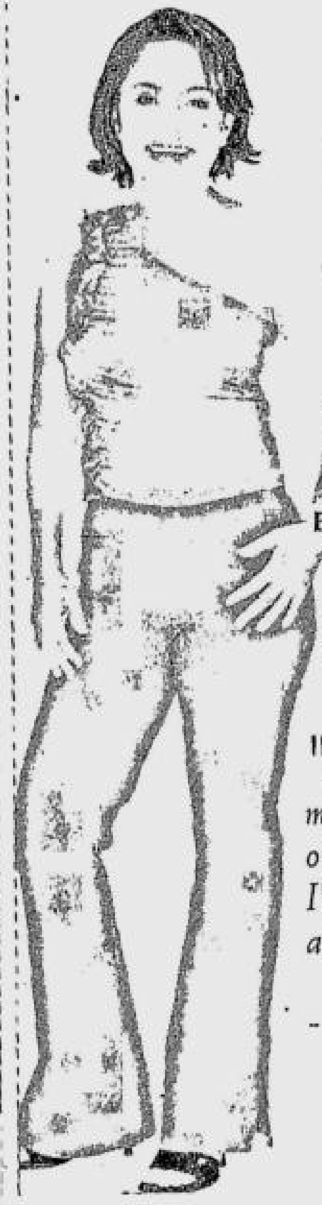

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Swift, bloodless end lessens stocks, peso fall

A STOCK market trader does business over the phone beside a copy of the INQUIRER's Monday issue. AFP

From page A1

cial markets, analysts said.

"Actually, we were very lucky. This could have been much worse," said stock market veteran Irving Ackerman of Ackerman & Co. Inc. If somebody had been killed or if the buildings were damaged, it would have been different."

"It (mutiny) didn't drag on like previous coup attempts," added Mark Alan Canizares, an investment analyst at the Citisec online.com brokerage who predicted the fallout would be short-lived.

"The fact that it was resolved by the time the markets opened is a positive sign that the government is doing all it can. It tempered the damage that might have been done had the mutiny dragged on," he said.

Cesar Luis Bate, general manager of foreign broker ING Baring Securities, said the peaceful resolution of the 22-hour standoff in Makati brought relief to the market.

"Some investors have accepted it as part of the Philippine risk," Bate said. "A lot of investors are beginning to accept coups as part of the culture in the country. At the end of the day, foreigners were on a net buying position."

2004 elections

While the currency market was nowhere near its lows as when then President Joseph Estrada was ousted in January 2001, investor confidence over the Philippines' ability to move peacefully toward elections in 2004 had been jolted.

"The risk for markets is that the Makati mutiny may mark a very noisy beginning to a disruptive campaign for the May 2004 elections," said David Fernandez, head of credit research at JP Morgan Chase in Singapore.

"Markets can be sure that there will be more political noise in the wake of the Makati mutiny and, historically, such noise has never been a good thing for Philippine asset prices," Fernandez said.

The central bank had warned it would be watching the markets closely for "unusual movements." Around noon, however, it decided not to intervene to prop up the peso.

"Absolutely not," Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura replied when asked if the central bank had intervened.

The currency market opened on schedule, just 11 hours after the standoff in the Makati business district ended when the rebellious solders walked out of a shopping and housing complex they had seized and booby-trapped with explosives. Stock trading began as usual half an hour later.

"Everything's back to normal," said Philippine Stock Exchange President Ernest Leung.

One business leader predicted losses will be contained because the mutiny was quickly brought under control.

"The fall will not be too deep because the problem last night was resolved," said Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

"Hopefully we can recover because the crisis was handled well," Dee said in a radio interview.

Need for reforms

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho said the failed mutiny over the weekend showed why it was important that the government pressed ahead with its reform program.

"It serves as another wake-up call for the need to continue the reform program that the government has been very committed to," Camacho said in an interview on CNBC.

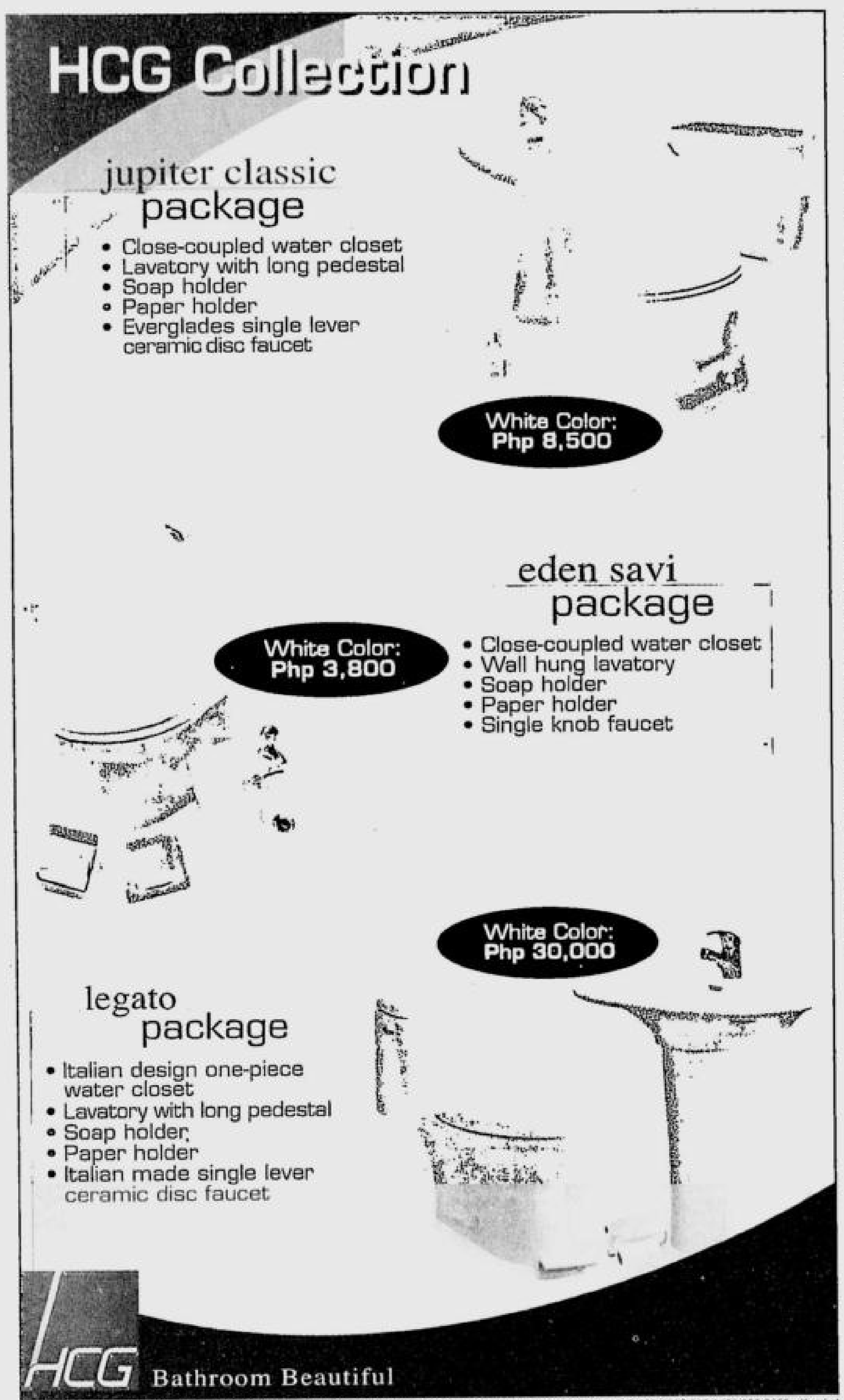
Jose Cuisia Jr., chair and CEO of Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co., said the government must also deal with the issue of graft and corruption in all levels.

Cuisia, a former central bank governor, said the masterminds of the mutiny must be brought to justice.

"People responsible must be held accountable, even those officers (involved in the mutiny)," he said.

Camaco said the macro-economic environment was stable and that recent data such as export orders showed there was reason to hope for an economic pick-up in the second half of the year.

"We expect that the second half of the year will be stronger," he said. *With reports from Elena Torrijos, AP, AFP and Reuters*



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NOTICE OF TENDER OFFER TO SHAREHOLDERS OF UNITED PULP AND PAPER CO., INC.

To All Shareholders of United Pulp and Paper Co., Inc. ("UPPC"):

Please be informed that, on 28 July 2003, The Siam Pulp and Paper Public Company Limited ("SPPC"), a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Thailand, filed the Tender Offer Statement (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with its intention to acquire 25,900,114 common shares equivalent to approximately 18.4% of the total outstanding capital stock of UPPC at P 5.00 per share. As of 18 July 2003, the total outstanding capital stock of UPPC consists of 140,570,863 common shares (the "Shares").

Stockholders as at 25 July 2003 (the "Record Date") may tender all or a portion of their Shares for acceptance and purchase by SPPC, subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, beginning at 9:00 a.m. of 28 July 2003 until 3:00 p.m. of 26 August 2003 (the "Tender Offer Period").

Tendering stockholders should secure validation of their stock certificates by UPPC's Corporate Secretary, Atty. Juan J. Diaz at 11th Floor, Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, 1211 Makati City. Thereafter, the stockholders should accomplish and submit the Application to Tender Shares in duplicate, together with other requirements set forth therein, and tender their corresponding stock certificates to Stock Transfer Service, Inc. (the "Depository") at 8th Floor, Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center,1211 Makati City, with telephone numbers 632-8987555 and 632-8987590.

Tendering stockholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered Share(s) at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the Depository before 3:00 p.m. of 26 August 2003.

The Tender Offer is further subject to the terms and conditions described in the Terms of the Tender Offer. Copies of SEC Form 19-1, the Terms of the Tender Offer and the Application to Tender Shares, may be obtained by the stockholders of UPPC, free of charge, from the following:

Stock Transfer Service, Inc.
8th Floor, Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive
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Telephone Numbers: 632-8987555/ 632-8987590
Contact Person: Antonio M. Laviña

SPPC confirms that sufficient resources are available to satisfy full acceptance of the offer to tender the Shares.

This Notice is published in compliance with Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. [Copies of this Notice, along with the Application to Tender Shares and the attachments, shall be sent to the stockholders by personal delivery or registered mail.

NOTE: YOU MAY CONSULT YOUR LEGAL AND/OR FINANCIAL ADVISER OR DIRECT YOUR INQUIRIES OR REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION TO THE DEPOSITORY.

Mr. Somboon Chuchawal
President
The Siam Pulp and Paper Public Company Limited

Internet scam uses Erap to lure unwary

From page A1

"Before my husband was impeached, I secretly siphoned the sum of 30 million US dollars out of Philippines and deposited the money with a security firm that transports valuable goods and consignments through diplomatic means," the e-mail, which is littered with grammatical and spelling errors, states.

"I am contacting you because I want you to go to the security company and claim the money on my behalf since I have declared that the consignment belongs to my foreign business partner," it said.

The e-mail asks the recipient to respond and begin the process of transferring the money into the prospective "partner's" bank accounts.

Gale said he was unaware of how widely the e-mail was being distributed, but expected it was sent out en masse because it indiscriminately landed at the security firm.

Joseph Estrada was ousted by a military-backed popular revolt in 2001 and has been in jail in the Philippines undergoing trial on charges that he plundered an $80-million fortune during his 30 months in office.

His wife Loi was elected senator after her husband was evicted from power.

'Black propaganda'

Reached for comment by the INQUIRER at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, where he has been held, Estrada dismissed the reported scam as "simply black propaganda."

He said in a phone interview that the scheme had been on the Internet since last year.

"Loi already saw it on the Internet and showed it to Senator [Senate President Franklin] Drilon," Estrada said.

The scam is the latest in a string of Internet frauds modeled on the infamous Nigerian setups that have plagued cyberspace for years.

In the Nigerian scams, men claiming to be linked with corrupt government officials ask for help in laundering the money, and in return a share of the fortune is offered.

The prospective "business partner" is asked for private financial details, such as bank account numbers, which are then used to steal the victim's money.

Hill and Associates also warned its clients this month to be wary of an Internet proposal to share in the wealth of fallen Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

In that scam, a man claiming to be a former minister in Saddam's government contacts people in business chat rooms telling them he has money in banks that he wants to launder with the assistance of business people who respond.

"*Kasama pala si* Senator [Loi] *kay* Saddam. *Wala nang magawa iyung ibang mga tao diyan* (So the senator has been linked to Saddam. Some people simply don't have anything to do)," Estrada said. *AFP with a report from Armand Nocum in Manila*

Sharp rise in water-borne deadly disease seen

By Blanche S. Rivera

TYPHOONS and filthy, flooded surroundings have triggered a marked increase in leptospirosis cases in the country, with five deaths reported within the first half of the year.

The Department of Health yesterday said the 41 cases recorded from January to June 14 showed a 310-percent increase from last year's figures.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease contracted through the ingestion or entry through open wounds of water contaminated with the urine of infected animals like rats, pigs, horses and cattle.

The disease manifests itself through pain in the spine, calves and thighs, along with fever, headaches, abdominal pain, vomiting and eye discharges. At a later stage, it is characterized by a rash and meningitis, with fever.

Sufficient protection

In a statement released yesterday, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit warned children living in flood-prone areas to wear sufficient protective gear during the rainy days, and avoid wading in floodwaters.

Dayrit said schoolchildren and working people have been forced to wade in dirty water to reach their destinations in the aftermath of typhoons.

He urged parents in low-lying areas to equip their kids with rubber boots and keep them away from floodwaters, especially if they had open wounds.

DOH figures showed that 71 percent or 29 of the 41 leptospirosis patients were admitted to the San Lazaro Hospital from June 8 to 14, or within two weeks after Typhoon Dodong. The incubation period for leptospirosis is seven to 12 days.

Male victims aged 16 to 74 comprised 93 percent of the patients. Manila accounted for 11 of the cases, while Parañaque, Caloocan and Valenzuela had three each. The rest were from outside Metro Manila.

The country is hit by about 20 typhoons a year, which cause severe flooding, particularly in Metro Manila.

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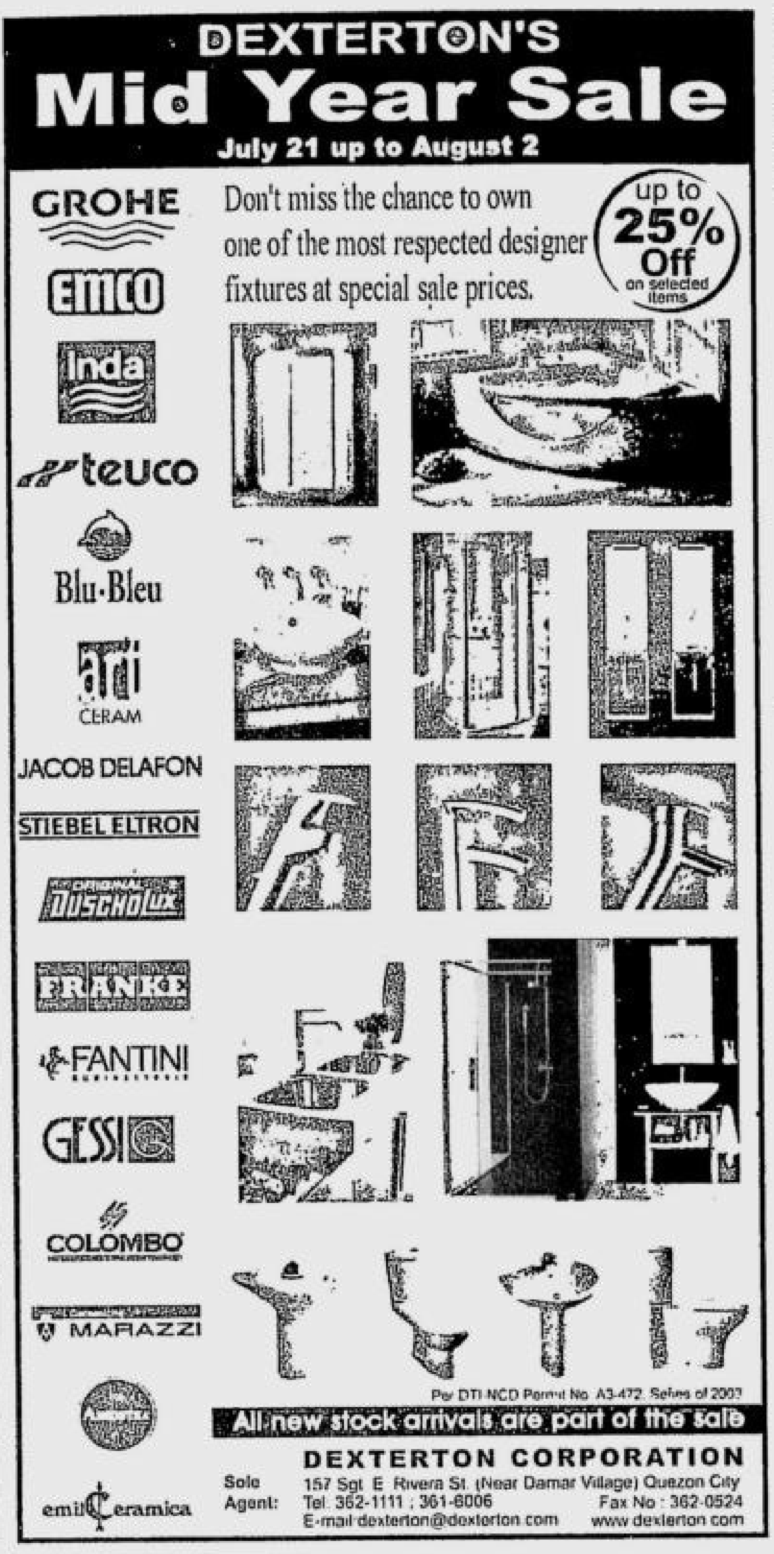
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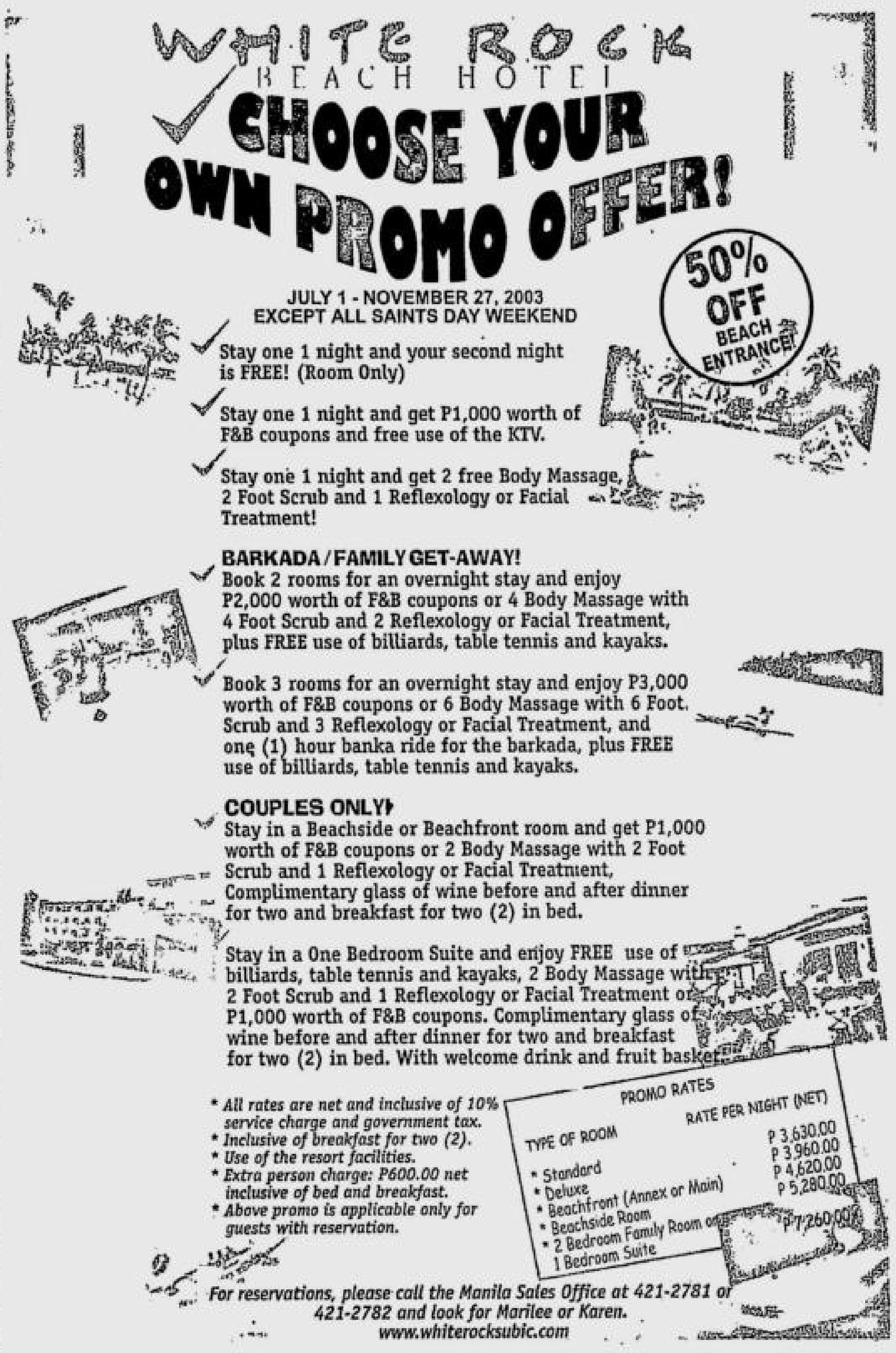
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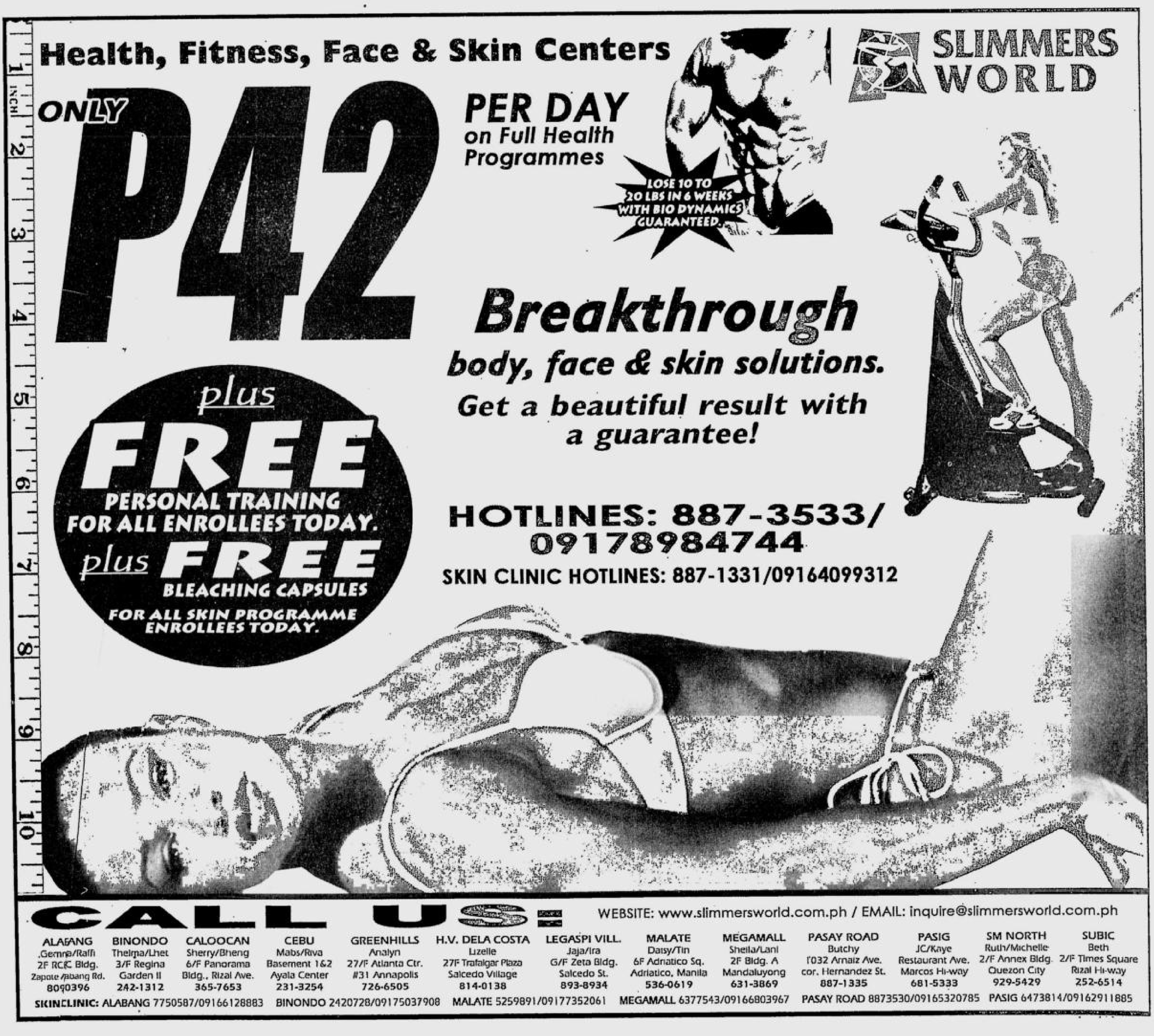
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GMA weak, Navy corrupt–Trillanes papers

From page A1

the government's anti-corruption watchdog, to be corrupt.

But the more compelling paper is "Corruption in the Philippine Navy," written in October 2001 when Trillanes was still a lieutenant junior grade. It reflects his disgust with corruption in the Navy in particular and the AFP in general.

The Introduction alone is attention-grabbing: It discusses the Navy's failed pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandits who had just kidnapped 20 people from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan. Four Navy patrol boats had been dispatched to conduct a naval blockade on the Mapun Island Group where the kidnappers, aboard three boats, were spotted by a reconnaissance plane.

When the Navy failed to locate the bandits, then presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao "quickly forgave the Navy for its ineffectiveness," Trillanes noted. Tiglao had rationalized that the bandits' boats were more powerful than those of the Navy's.

Trillanes said Tiglao's statements signified three things:

- The "cluelessness" of the Macapagal administration on the real situation because it was totally relying on "nonincriminating information" given by the AFP leadership. The bandits had actually used three motor launches (*lancha*) that travelled at only 12 knots, which was why it took the Abu Sayyaf two days to travel from Dos Palmas to the Mapun Island Group.
- The administration's ignorance on the capabilities of its Navy. Had the four Navy crafts been deployed correctly, they could have successfully blockaded the island group.
- Ms Macapagal's "penchant for tolerating grossly incompetent acts of the AFP, in this case the Navy, due to her political indebtedness for being primarily responsible for installing her as President of the Republic."

Weak commander

Trillanes said the escape of the Abu Sayyaf bandits was a great tactical blunder, and for the President, through Tiglao, to simply forgive the Navy "was a display of weakness as a Commander-in-Chief of the AFP."

"But I am inclined to believe that the President was not as stupid and weak as this gesture had showed. Thus, it is safe to conclude that it was her political indebtedness and fear of the AFP that prevented her from imposing sanctions that could have antagonized it," Trillanes said.

"Otherwise, she would also suffer the same fate as former President (Joseph) Estrada through another 'withdrawal of support' by the AFP."

That was just for starters. Trillanes' paper had more controversial things to say about his mother unit, and his Commander-in-Chief.

Magdalo

Interestingly, Trillanes mentioned Magdalo in his first paper. (The mutineers, who seized the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center in Makati on Sunday, called themselves Magdalo).

In his background of the Philippine Navy, he said Magdalo was the name of the Navy's first watercraft. It was a Spanish steam pinnace captured by the Americans and then given to Emilio Aguinaldo in May 1898.

The paper then goes on to cite nine cases of corruption in the Navy from 1995 to 1999. It described how Navy men would escort smugglers in the South, how they pilfered ship fuel and sell these to outsiders, and how Navy officials malversed public funds.

In these cases, no names were mentioned, but the dates and other details were specific.

"The corruption problem in the Philippine Navy is grave," Trillanes said. "The obsolescence and shortage of operating assets of the Navy's fleet are not the reasons for its ineffectiveness, but are the results of years of malversation of funds."

Moral crusaders

Trillanes' idealistic notions of a graft-free Navy was apparently fired up by the appointment of two Navy officers: Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong as flag-officer-in-command in December 2000 and Commodore Ruben Domingo as commander of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) in December 1999.

Both men embarked on an anticorruption crusade.

Trillanes said Domingo produced "astounding" results when he cleansed the procurement system in the NETC, the Navy's training arm. With an annual budget of P169 million, "the NETC had become the object of larceny" before Domingo's term. But when Domingo took over, the NETC was able to conduct all its programmed courses and even accumulated a savings of P5 million in just one year.

The main components of Domingo's reform program, Trillanes said, were his technical competence to formulate reforms and his moral integrity and political will to enforce them.

Wong vs Marines

Wong's vision of a graft-free Navy, on the other hand, was cut short when he berated the Marines for alleged irregularities in the procurement of Kevlar helmets worth P3.8 million.

Angelo Reyes, then AFP chief of staff, was instructed by the President to resolve the Navy crisis. As a concession to the restive Marines, Reyes offered Wong the newly formed Northern Command. Wong opted to resign.

Trillanes noted that Ms Macapagal sided with Reyes. She said Reyes handled the Navy crisis correctly.

"For a President and Commander-in-Chief whose government was supposed to be founded on such slogans as new politics, moral regeneration, and good governance, to say that what General Reyes did was 'the right thing' was truly demoralizing to say the least," Trillanes wrote.

"This was the first indication of the type of leadership the AFP would expect from its Commander-in-Chief."

He said the President should have backed Wong, who "was on the right and principled side."

Trillanes also mentioned Wong's case in his second paper. He said the crisis had "exposed a previously unseen face of the Navy, and that is the face of corruption."

'Ray of light'

Despite the Wong incident and the documented cases of corruption, Trillanes still saw a glimmer of hope for the Navy. He said Domingo's success in the NETC was "a ray of light amidst the darkness of moral decadence. It proved that total eradication of corruption in a major unit of the Navy was possible."

The next step, he said, would be to magnify this accomplishment to the Navy command itself. But this would only be possible if a crusading flag-officer-in-command was supported by a President "who possesses strong leadership qualities and who will not allow political concessions and political indebtedness to be the bases of his/her decision-making (regarding) AFP matters."

"This way, the whole AFP officer corps will not get the impression that they are being treated as an organization of untouchables who can easily get away with anything," Trillanes concluded.

Big words indeed from a young officer. It is small wonder then that the Trillanes papers continue to be read, and distributed, by idealistic junior officers in the military.

The INQUIRER was given a copy of the two papers by a Navy junior officer who had obtained it from Trillanes.

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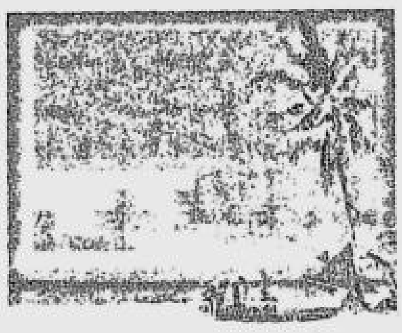

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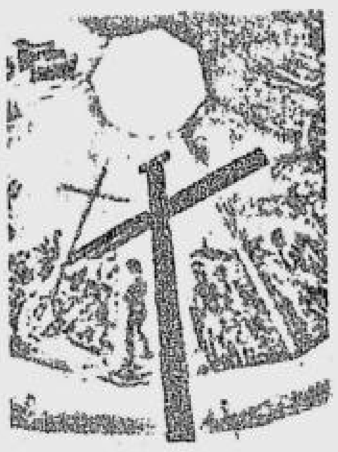

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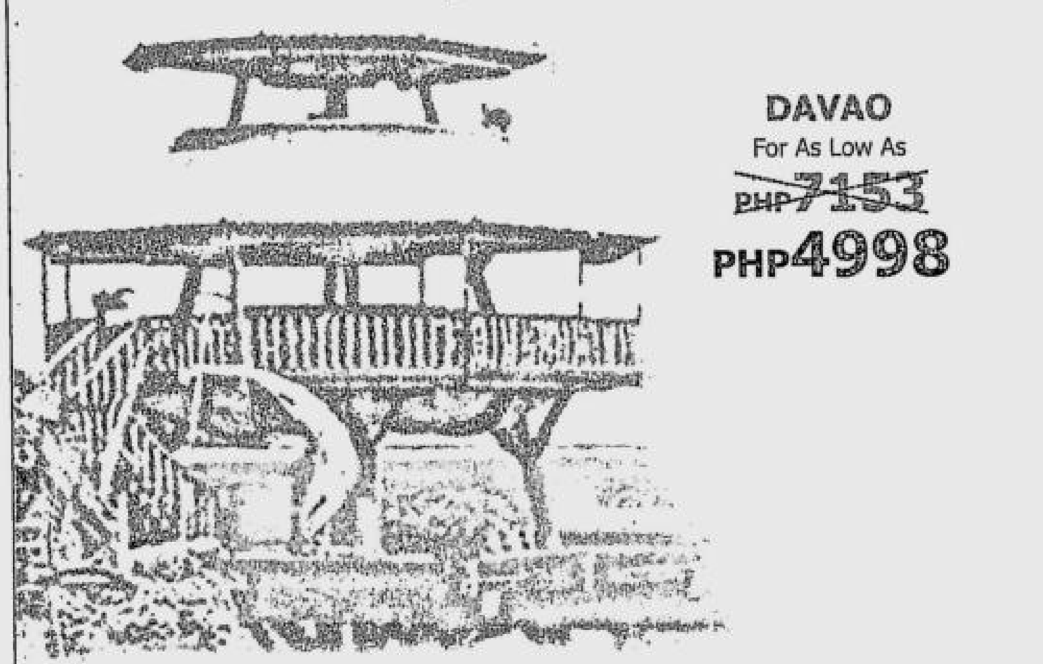

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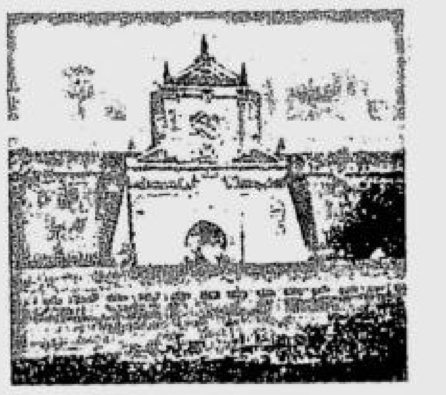

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Former Vice . . .

From page A1

This was how Emmanuel Pelaez's daughter remembered the 87-year-old former Vice President following his death on Sunday due to cardiac arrest at the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa City.

Berry Pelaez-Marfori said her father "persistently dedicated over seven decades of his life to public service and development of the country ... in various arenas and capacities."

Many people remembered Pelaez when he uttered, "General, what is happening to our country?" immediately after he was attacked by assassins in 1982.

The still-conscious statesman was expressing his deep dismay over the turn of events to then Northern Police District chief Gen. Tomas Karingal. Since then, the quotation has been repeated by others as a plea against the abuse of power and reign of lawlessness.

Pelaez was concurrently Vice President and foreign secretary under then President Diosdado Macapagal in 1961-64. He served as assemblyman and minister of state from 1979-84.

He was "a statesman with facility in foreign relations and negotiations" and "a diplomat representing the best interests of the Philippines," Pelaez-Marfori said.

Pelaez was elected representative of Misamis Oriental for two terms (1949-53 and 1965-69) and was senator from 1953 to 1960.

Lawmaker

As a lawmaker, Pelaez leveraged his political career "to enact laws that would change the face of his countryside," his daughter recalled.

Foremost among these were the Barrio Charter, which allowed the empowerment of the grassroots by giving them the right to elect their barangay captain and retain a percentage of their tax collection, and the Total Electrification Act, which created rural electric cooperatives that assumed responsibility for the electrification of the countryside from local entrepreneurs and put it in the hands of those who would most benefit from it.

Pelaez was born in Medina, Misamis Oriental, on Nov. 30, 1915. He graduated valedictorian at the Cagayan de Oro Elementary School and received highest honors at the Ateneo de Manila High School.

He obtained an Associate of Arts degree at the University of the Philippines Junior College in Cebu and a Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of the Philippines. In 1938, he topped the bar examinations.

Pelaez obtained his experience in legislation and jurisprudence at the Senate and the courts.

He worked as a clerk at the Senate's journal division from 1934-35, debate reporter from 1935-37, and court translator from 1937-38. He was employed as assistant court reporter at the Court of Appeals from 1939-40, then special prosecutor from 1945 to the following year when he quit government service to practice and teach law at the University of Manila until 1963.

Magsaysay aide

While working in Congress, he fostered close relations with then Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Sr., becoming his trusted aide.

Pelaez was elected to the Senate on the Magsaysay ticket, creating momentum for his political career. The momentum carried him to the vice presidency and almost all the way to the presidency in 1964, when he vied with Ferdinand Marcos as the presidential nominee of the Nationalista Party.

When he was assemblyman representing Region 10, Pelaez was invited by then President Ferdinand Marcos in 1981 to join the Marcos-created Executive Committee. In this capacity, he came to know of the plight of coconut farmers whose earnings have been gravely affected by the coconut levy.

The levy, which came from farmers' earnings, purported to make coconut exports from the Philippines more competitive. Nevertheless, after a decade or so, it paved way for the control of an entire industry and the siphoning of funds collected from farmers by a handful of cronies.

By 1982, coconut farmers who formed the backbone of the Philippine agricultural economy were at the mercy of the crony-controlled United Coconut Oil Mills (Unicom), the only entity authorized by the government to export coconut products which dictated prices to sellers.

Ambush

The attempt on his life took place a few days after he conducted an exercise which proved that outside the Unicom fold, coconut farmers could get a better deal in the world market.

Pelaez was on his way home in New Manila, Quezon City on the night of July 21, 1982 when armed men overtook his car and opened fire. He was seriously wounded while his driver was killed.

Marcos tried to cover up the crime by blaming it on the Muslims, Pelaez had recalled in an INQUIRER interview in 1992. He also linked the late dictator and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to the assassination attempt.

"When you have the President covering up, there was no way of getting to the truth," he had said.

After the attempt, Pelaez distanced himself from the Marcos regime. He campaigned for Corazon Aquino and galvanized support for her in 1985.

After Aquino was catapulted to the presidency through "people power" in 1986, Pelaez was appointed ambassador to the United States. *With reports from Grace Cantal-Albasin and Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Al-Ghozi in Mindanao, claims Ebdane

By Christian V. Esguerra

AL-GHOZI

INDONESIAN fugitive Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi is hiding somewhere in Mindanao, according to Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

Asked in an ambush interview about the terrorist's whereabouts, Edbane yesterday said the fugitive was about "1,000 kilometers from Metro Manila."

"He's in Mindanao," he told reporters at Camp Crame.

Ebdane did not elaborate on the statement he made hours before President Macapagal-Arroyo was to deliver her State of the Nation Address later in the afternoon.

But his statement confirmed reports that he had gone to Mindanao late last week to oversee the manhunt for the convicted terrorist and two members of the Abu Sayyaf terror group who escaped with him from Camp Crame on July 14.

In the days before the Sona, there were rumors that Al-Ghozi had been arrested and would be presented to the President when she addressed the opening of Congress.

But yesterday, Camp Crame insiders were speculating that the PNP's failure to recapture the Indonesian bomb expert in time for the Sona would cost Ebdane his job.

Rumors had it Ebdane was going to be sacked by the President in her Sona and the other top positions in the PNP were going to be declared vacant as well.

Reports that Al-Ghozi had been recaptured in General Santos City and was now in military custody were anything but true, Ebdane said.

"Whoever came up with the reports knows how to invent stories," Ebdane told the INQUIRER on Sunday afternoon.

The problem, he said, was that while the police were tracking down the fugitive, newspaper reports about Al-Ghozi's supposed recapture were being being written up way ahead of an actual arrest.

The PNP chief instead asked the public to be patient and join him in "praying" for Al-Ghozi's recapture.

Ebdane said the PNP's focus on the hunt for Al-Ghozi was also shifted over the weekend by the mutiny staged by nearly 300 junior officers of the military in Makati City.

The police, he said, had to help the Armed Forces defend the government against the mutinous soldiers.

"We need to have focus," he said in the Sunday interview, shortly before the President's ultimatum for the rebel soldiers to surrender was to expire at 5 p.m. "We're proceeding with the manhunt," he added.

BI chief moves to block jail sentence

BUREAU of Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo yesterday asked the Court of Appeals to stop an Olongapo City judge from enforcing a decision sentencing her to six months in jail.

Domingo petitioned the CA to issue a temporary restraining order against Olongapo Judge Ramon Caguioa, saying the judge had abused his authority in rendering the decision.

She is set to file an administrative complaint against the judge, whom she wanted sanctioned for "gross ignorance of the law."

"I am even willing to go to jail (rather) than obey an unlawful order from the judge," Domingo said in a statement.

Domingo maintained that she did not violate any law when she ordered Harlinghausen's arrest and detention, because he was a fugitive from justice.

She said her summary deportation order was based on the German's illegal entry despite being blacklisted by the BI on Sept. 24, 2002.

Harlinghausen was said to have fled to the Philippines to avoid a prison sentence for fraud in his country.

In fact, Domingo added, the CA upheld the arrest when it dismissed on Jan. 30 Harlinghausen's petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

She added that the CA had ruled on previous occasions that the BI was a quasi-judicial body with the powers to arrest and detain an alien who had violate immigration laws, and that this could not be challenged before the lower courts especially when the alien has already been charged in a deportation case.

Thus, Domingo said, Caguioa erred in citing her for contempt.

Harlinghausen was arrested by immigration agents on Oct. 14, 2002, and confined him to the BI detention center. On Oct. 21 and Nov. 25, Domingo issued deportation orders against him.

Caguioa issued a writ of preliminary injunction on Feb. 14 this year, preventing the BI from implementing the orders.

Martin P. Marfil

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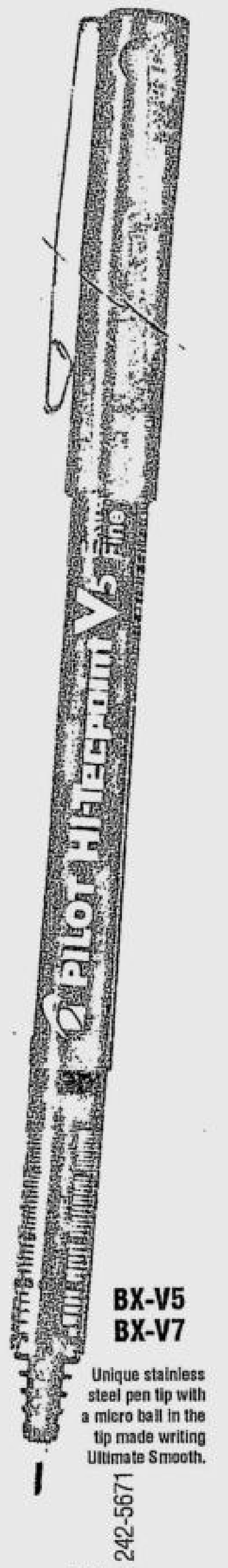

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Doomed

EDITORIAL

IT was a coup that was doomed from the start. It was doomed because it did not have the support of the people. And it did not have the support of the people because it did not have a clear, large objective that had to be accomplished immediately.

The objective of Edsa I was to topple the Marcos dictatorship. Hundreds of thousands of people rallied in support of a beleaguered group of soldiers, and thus accomplished the objective of the revolt.

The objective of Edsa II was to replace a corrupt and incompetent President. The reverse happened this time: hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated on Edsa, and the military, headed by the Armed Forces chief of staff, supported the cause of the people.

To be sure, the larger objective of the Oakwood mutiny was to bring down the Macapagal presidency. But apparently the great majority of the people did not believe the charges hurled against the President by the mutineers. And if she was to step down, who was going to replace her? Were the mutineers going to restore Joseph Estrada to the presidency?

Most of the people who wanted Macapagal replaced probably thought, why not wait for the elections next year? The elections are only about 10 months away. What's the hurry?

The mutineers did not even have the support of a sizable sector of the AFP. Many soldiers may have secretly sympathized with the mutineers; after all, graft and corruption at the level of the generals is an open secret. But apparently, the great majority of the soldiers believe that the issue could still be addressed through the normal, legal ways of fighting corruption—if not in the military itself, then in the courts or the legislature.

Investigations will now be conducted by the military and the executive and legislative branches of government. One question that will have to be asked is whether the mutiny was supported by a politician or a group of politicians wanting to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The initial findings of investigators show that an apartment owned by Laarni Enriquez, a mistress of deposed President Joseph Estrada, was used as a staging area by the mutinous officers. Now, in hindsight, the "excursion" of Estrada from and back to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center makes sense. He could have been a rallying point of thousands of people who could have staged a repeat of "Edsa Tres."

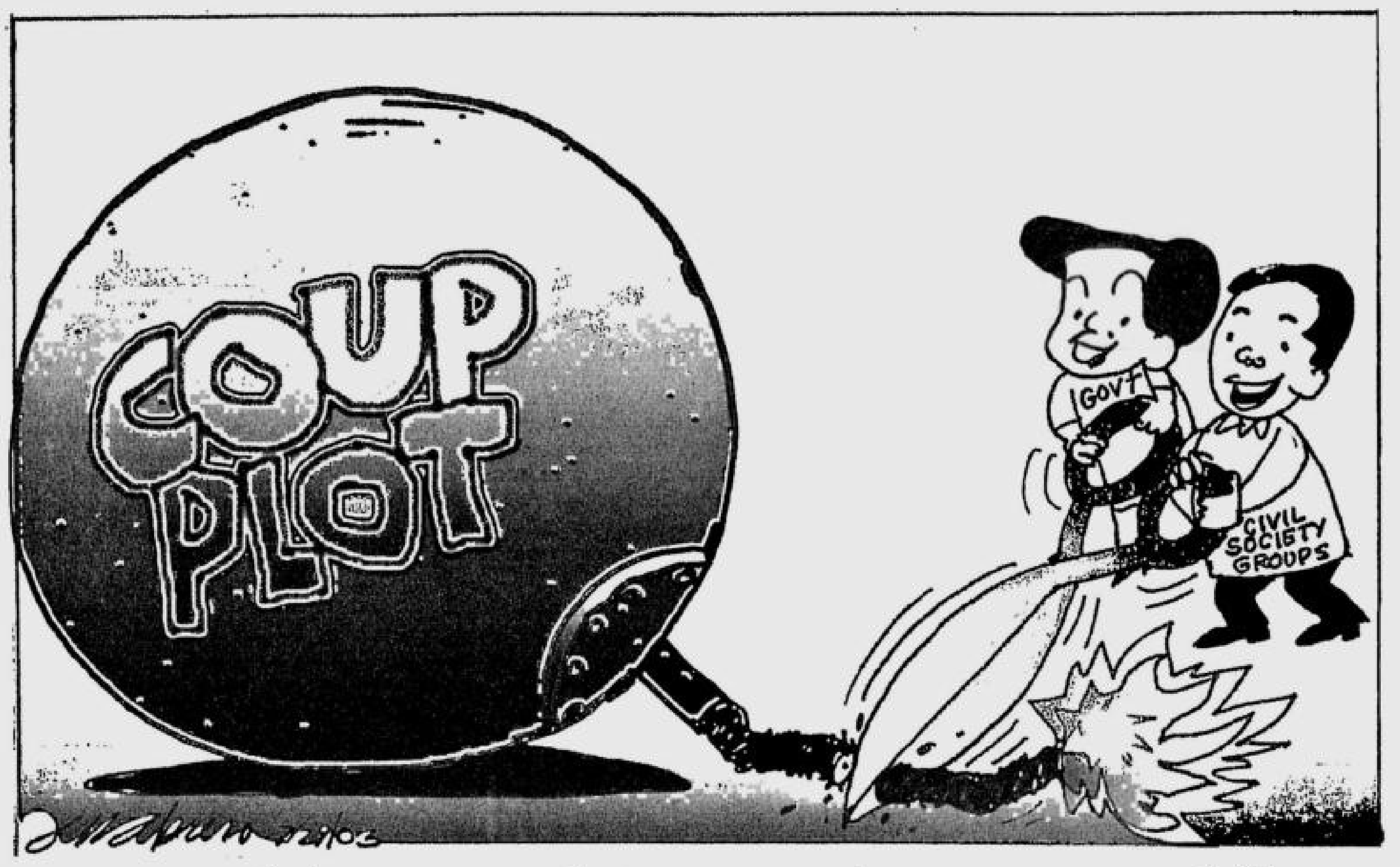
But the attempt to link Sen. Gregorio Honasan to the mutineers, based principally on the mutineers' adoption of his National Recovery Program, may be a bit premature. It appears now that Honasan, the leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) in his younger days, was looked up to as an icon by the leaders of the Magdalo group. As the government looks for the big people behind the mutiny, it wouldn't hurt if it proceeded with caution lest it be accused of engaging in a witch-hunt.

The investigations should not concentrate just on the culpability of the mutineers. They should look closely into the charges made by the mutineers. And the investigating commission created by the President should include representatives of the classes to which the mutineers belong so that there will be no suspicion of a whitewash.

The issues raised by the mutineers are not trivial. Some of them, like the corruption of the generals, is common knowledge not only in the military but in Philippine society. Some of the more specific charges, like the sale by officers of bullets to rebels, are literally life-and-death issues. The young officers have to know if some of the generals commanding them are traitors who are giving not only aid and comfort to the enemy but the means to kill them and their men. And if some generals are traitors, they should be punished to the full extent of the law.

The coming investigations should determine the culpability of the mutineers. If they are found culpable, the punishment should not be a mere 100 pushups. Stiff penalties should help put a stop to the cycle of coups that severely harm the nation. The inquiries should also find out if the mutineers were used by politicians or political groups. They should look into the mutineers' complaints and propose solutions to these problems. And to put an end to the cycle of coups and mutinies, they should find ways to restore the professionalism in military ranks that existed before World War II.

We hope it is still possible to "put the toothpaste back in the tube," and make the Armed Forces an organization that will really protect and promote the interest of the people and not one that will harm the entire country by acts of adventurism.



We're becoming the newest banana republic

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"WHAT'S happening to our country," former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez (who died the other day at the height of the Makati mutiny) asked then Quezon City police chief, Gen. Tomas Karingal, when he, Pelaez, was shot in an assassination attempt allegedly over the coco levy controversy. (Karingal himself was assassinated months later in a Quezon City restaurant.)

Today, this is the answer to Pelaez's question: We are becoming a banana republic. Every two years or so, the country is hit by an attempted coup by disgruntled military officers, just like the banana republics of South America and Africa.

Of course, the rebel soldiers in the Makati adventure said that it was not a coup attempt but merely a mutiny. And that is how some sector are now calling it.

But I think it started out as a coup, an attempt to take over the government, but was downgraded to Plan B, a mutiny, when it became obvious that the coup was going to fail. In fact, the rebels were telling President Macapagal-Arroyo "to step down" at the beginning of their caper. They shifted to "mutiny" because it is a lesser crime than an attempt to grab power. And also to protect the politicians backing them.

What did the rebels hope to achieve by such a dangerous caper? Was it only to air their grievances against the Armed Forces chain of command? Was it only to force the resignation or dismissal of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and ISAFP chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus? Was it only to expose the alleged selling, allegedly by Secretary Reyes, of guns and ammunition to the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the bombing of the Davao airport, and for the military to unleash a wave of bombings in Metro Manila as an excuse to declare martial law? I don't think so. They're flimsy reasons to risk the lives and limbs of both rebel and government soldiers. Besides, they had already told the President about them at a Malacañang dinner and she immediately ordered the Department of National Defense and the AFP to institute reforms and address their grievances.

Why was it necessary to go through with the mutiny? Because they were following a plan and a timetable. The bullets, arm bands, food, clothes and IDs found in the rebel safe house in San Juan prove that the adventure took a long time planning. Such a risky plan of action is too much just to call attention to their complaints. The motive must be something deeper than that.

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad said at yesterday's Kapihan sa Manila that the mutiny was a "continuation" of Edsa III. I said if we come right down to it, the Makati mutiny is a child of the 1986 People Power revolt. It was not only inspired by that successful grab for power, this week's mutineers were trying to reprise that 1986 event.

By taking over and holding the Oakwood apartment complex, they were expecting civilians to surround it and protect them from government soldiers, just as the people surrounded Camp Crame in 1986 and protected the rebels from the Marcos troops. They tried to turn Oakwood into another Camp Crame. Indeed, groups of civilians loyal to certain politicians did try to go there but were blocked by riot policemen. By immediately closing Edsa and the other streets leading to the Ayala Commercial Center where the rebels were holed up, government forces prevented a repeat of the civilian demonstrations that made the earlier Edsa adventures possible. Without the civilian component which was undoubtedly a component of the overall plan, the rebellion collapsed.

The question now is, what is the AFP going to do with the mutineers? Are they going to get away with 50 push-ups?

The President said they would be tried and penalized under the Articles of War. And the mutineers themselves said they don't want "any special treatment"—they are ready for the consequences.

That is as it should be, otherwise we will soon have soldiers rebelling against the government whenever they want somebody fired from the government because they do not listen to their grievances.

Rebellions and coups have become popular because we glorified the rebels and coup plotters. We made them heroes and elected them to the presidency and the Senate. If they had been defeated, they would have been treated as traitors and perhaps shot. But because they won, they are now treated as heroes. The victors write the rules.

On the other hand, the grievances of the rebels are valid. Why should the soldiers be killed by their own bullets and guns sold clandestinely to the enemy? Why should retired officers continue to occupy soldiers' housing units while those in the active service sleep out in the cold?

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The biggest winner in the Makati incident is, of course, President Macapagal-Arroyo. Tatad rightly said that she is much stronger now as President than before the mutiny. She acted quickly and resolutely and prevailed. But it also exposed the government itself as very weak. There is still no strong republic.

The other big winner is Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, chief of military intelligence. Corpus correctly sensed and predicted the coup, to the day, although generals and politicians questioned his credibility and laughed at his prediction.

The biggest losers are the AFP generals who didn't suspect any coup until it was upon them.

Report card

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THIS was to have been published yesterday, but it got overtaken by events:

"A" for effort, "B" for performance. That's the grade Jose Sarte Salceda gives the Macapagal administration this year. Salceda is the chair of the congressional oversight committee, which keeps track of the commitments GMA made in her last State of the Nation Address. The President, Salceda said, complied with 21 of her targets and failed in 11 of them, including the reduction of the price of medicines and the power rates.

I understand Malacañang has been astir this past month trying to produce an epic Sona, one that will showcase GMA's accomplishments and harp on the theme of legacy and continuity. The secretaries apparently have been instructed to draw up their list of achievements, the better to bolster the point. So we expected a Sona that's bound to be interminable and enumerative. Or since, the last couple of years have been that already, to be more so.

Seemingly infused with a sense of realism and nitty-gritty, these assessments miss the point. I have friends in the administration who keep telling me: "But surely, this government has also done some good things? Why don't you write about them?" But of course this government has done some good things, although trying to spot them gives the sensation of scraping the bottom of the barrel. What government has not? Even Marcos produced Masagana 99. Even Erap produced a housing project or two.

But that is missing the forest for the trees. No more than that, that is ignoring the forest for the trees. Particularly so with the current administration where the forest looms primeval. Or for those who do not like metaphors and literary allusions, where the big picture leaps at you even without your looking at it. The only way you can miss it is if you bury your head in the sand.

You look at the big picture, and it's easy to know what grade to give the Macapagal administration. It's "F."

Three things this administration has done to deserve it. The first is to push back this country's independence by half a century. Or by six decades back to pre-July 4, 1946, when we were an American colony. No other Filipino president—not even GMA's father, Diosdado—has shown such depths of subservience, to borrow Claro M. Recto's word. No other Filipino president has so recklessly squandered the hard-fought gains in sovereignty, adopting as the cornerstone of our national and foreign policy the tenet that America is the source of our salvation, the well from which flows endless benefaction, we will stand by it through thick and thin, right or wrong, *walang iwanan*.

That alone qualifies this administration for a failing grade, impacting as it does on every aspect of national life. That is the one element that has made this country the terminally ill patient of Asia, the attitude that another country knows what's best for us, our progress lies in being Tonto to America's Lone Ranger. No other country in Asia thinks that way. No country has progressed thinking that way. That alone explains the difference in where we—and they—are: Other Asian countries are moving forward, we are moving backward. Legacy and continuity? It's everything the next president can do to undo the damage that atrocity has wrought.

The second thing, which is the natural consequence of the first, is to push back democracy by 20 years, to the time when the military was supreme. Ironically, the whole business of anti-terrorism is being sold as a stout defense of democracy. That is the last thing it does. In this country, all it has done is put people like Angelo Reyes and Roilo Golez in charge of national policy and creepy characters like Akbar in charge of fighting terrorists.

Fighting terrorism being the No. 1 priority of government, the one institution that has been thrust to prominence is not the education department or the anti-poverty commission, it is the military. There is one thing the Aquino and Macapagal administrations share, and that is the desire to pamper and appease the military. Its natural consequence is to produce coups or coup rumors. A military that is raised to these exaggerated levels of importance will develop exaggerated airs of self-importance. If that is democracy, who's afraid of tyranny?

The third thing is to push back human rights by another 20 years. It has done so by making fighting drugs yet another national priority. Not fighting poverty, not fighting ignorance, but fighting drugs. When clearly what addles this country's brain is not shabu but the vapors inside empty bellies and empty minds. All the anti-drug posturing has done is to put the police, the most incorrigible of this country's institutions, in charge of ridding it of its dregs. More than that, it has put people like Alfredo Lim who like to paint houses red in charge of helping us sleep the sleep of the just. With people like these, who needs criminals?

You look at the big picture and not all the details about housing and export receipts and tax collections that fill up GMA's hour-long speech matter. Ironically, too, all these have been, and are being, done in the name of building a strong republic. In fact, it simply confuses macho with tough, subservience with purpose, brawn with strength. The real strength of a republic does not come from echoing a superpower, fighting phantoms and using the rhetoric of war. It comes from finding one's own purpose, confronting one's demons and using reason to light one's way. The real strength of a republic does not come from government, it comes from its people. A people made strong by having food on their table, light in their minds, peace and goodwill in their communities. Strength is not external, it is internal. It is not martial, it is moral.

How has this administration fared there?
"F" on all counts.

A destructive soap opera

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE REBELLION of young military officers, most of them with the rank of captain, that just ended with their return to barracks looked very much like a Filipino soap opera. Holed up in Makati where they planted bombs in various places to exert maximum pressure on the government, the rebels were given a deadline of 5 p.m. last Sunday to give up or face the full brunt of the government's wrath even as negotiations were going on. The deadline was extended to 7 p.m. and then re-extended as the mother of the rebel leader, Navy Lt(sg). Antonio Trillanes, was escorted to the Palace by former President Fidel V. Ramos, who knew her late husband, to plead with President Macapagal-Arroyo for leniency for the mutineers. In the meantime, wives of the other rebel officers, former chiefs of staff of the AFP and opposition senators, also got into the picture for informal negotiations.

* * *

After many hours came a mutual face-saving formula: the rebels pledged to return to barracks and face the consequences of their actions, including court martial, while the government offered to "review" their case in what appeared to be a softening up on them. Early reports hinted that charges may not be filed at all, prompting a CNN lady anchor on the other side of the world to comment wryly about the "gentle handling" by the government of the rebels.

* * *

In other parts of the world, coup plotters are hustled off to a firing squad, but here they become celebrities. The problem is, if the government again handles the rebels with kid gloves, as it had in the past, a similar rebellion would likely haunt it again like a recurring nightmare. If it does not seem to sink into the rebels' consciousness that they face grave consequences for mutiny, that could be because leniency has always been extended to them since the various coup plots against government began in 1986. Recall that after the Manila Hotel episode, the plotters were made to do some push-ups as punishment.

* * *

In dialogues with the media and the negotiators, the rebels made it look like they had no leader and that they were acting on their own. Judging from the way they were picking issues to hurl against the government—first it was low pay and corruption in the military; then they wanted to have the President and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes out; then it was Reyes, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and ISAFP chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus out, and the charge that Rep. Teddyboy Locsin rightly labeled "preposterous": that government is selling arms to the Muslim rebels even as it sues for peace—the young rebels didn't seem to know what they wanted. If lawyers have their forum shopping, military rebels have their "issue shopping."

Unfortunately this issue shopping had the effect of trivializing a most serious and deadly event that, as Makati Business Club secretary general Billy Luz pointed out, set back economic recovery by a couple of years. There is nothing patriotic about the short-lived rebellion; in fact it was utterly unpatriotic as it hurt the entire nation. The rebels acted pretty dumb.

* * *

Observers note the timing of the rebellion, two days after the rebels' dinner-dialogue with the President, during which she set up a mechanism to hear their grievances, and the weekend before her State of the Nation Address at the opening of Congress, and in the financial district of Makati, whose premises the rebels wired with bombs. All these moves had the effect of getting maximum exposure in the international and local media. The question is, who was pulling the rebel strings?

* * *

Interior Secretary Joey Lina pinned the blame on former rebel leader and now Sen. Gregorio Honasan. Lina said the senator had been meeting with the rebels about his National Recovery Movement and that they were told there would be an organizational rally last weekend. Honasan's former colleague in the old Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), retired Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig, has accused him of being the "unseen hand" that "manipulated" the young rebels. Maligalig said officers admitted having been "deceived" in last weekend's failed coup.

* * *

Honasan, who has admitted to being the young officers' "adviser" when this issue of their plotting against the government came out, flatly denies any hand in the coup attempt. But he has a lot of explaining to do. It is interesting to note that problematic developments in the military over the years always seem to have Honasan somewhere in the picture. The military is his natural constituency. But if the reports about his role in this recent mutiny are true, it would be truly lamentable that even as Honasan sits as a senator of the realm, he continues to manipulate young and unthinking military minds to take the law into their hands and violate the Constitution.

* * *

What makes last weekend's mutiny so sad was that it was doomed from the start, and its only sure consequence was to leave a train of shattered military careers. How many more shattered careers will be added to the ones broken because of their involvement in failed coup plots?

Another thing that has to be explained is the involvement of the political opposition in the failed mutiny. A raid on the condominium of Laarni Enriquez, former President Estrada's mistress, prompted by neighbors' reports of troop movements, yielded rebel paraphernalia. Ex-President Erap has denied any role for Laarni, but the impression of his complicity in the mutiny will not go away very easily.

A roller-coaster Sunday

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

BY five Sunday afternoon, Ayala Center was a virtual ghost town. When my friends and I heard over TV that the 5 p.m. deadline set by the President for the mutineers' surrender had been extended, we decided it was safe enough to make the ultimate "uzi" trip and drive over to Makati.

We made it from Ortigas to Makati in barely 20 minutes. By the time we parked near the gate of San Lorenzo Village, a little rain was falling, which only enhanced the gloomy scene before us. Makati Avenue and Pasay Road were desolate, and save for a few soldiers wearing white armbands, there was hardly anybody in sight.

As we strolled in the drizzle, an assortment of umbrellas held above our heads, we suddenly felt, if not foolish, foolhardy. While the soldiers seemed relaxed and cradled their long arms casually, we felt intimidated.

"*Bawal po diyan,*" one of the troopers yelled as we walked in the direction of Glorietta. Without a peep of protest, we crossed the street and walked on the Greenbelt side. As we tried to get further up Makati Avenue, some Ayala security men emerged from under the awnings of the mall and said we could proceed no further.

The malls and restaurants were all closed, an eerie sight for anyone who's been to Greenbelt at any time of the day or night, negotiating through the crowds. One thought that popped in my head was how many millions the establishments in Ayala Center, Greenbelt and, perhaps, along Pasay Road had lost by way of foregone income.

* * *

WE caucused and decided it was the better part of valor to gather instead at the nearby New World Hotel, which seemed to be likewise deserted save for a few customers sitting desultorily at the coffee shop, all eyes and ears glued to the TV set.

Bart Guingona, who had been chafing to enter Oakwood since that morning, wanted to borrow my press ID. But he brushed off the idea of bluffing his way inside when he saw my picture, taken some years back when I still had shoulder-length hair, and realized there was no way he could pass himself off as me. At least not at that moment when he had not shaved and had quite more than a five o'clock shadow.

Bart felt even worse when journalist-friends who dropped by, yearning for a respite from coverage that had begun at dawn, told stories about all sorts of "strange people" who managed to breach the mutineers' barricade. Ricky Carandang of ANC told of a pair of young women, clad in shorts and sweaty T-shirts, elbowing for space among the media people and managing to make their way to the leaders of the uprising. "*Ay*, how cute naman!" the women exclaimed at the young officers and soldiers. "*Pahingi naman ng bandana niyo!*" they cajoled the troopers with red armbands, apparently believing the rebel troop insignia made for cool souvenirs.

A TV reporter reported that in the middle of the tense negotiations between government representatives and the rebel troop leaders, an unidentified woman approached the huddled group and began haranguing them until she had to be dragged away.

* * *

STILL, one of the most striking things about Sunday's events was how, compared to previous upheavals and armed threats to government, the mutiny didn't seem to stir the same sort of passionate defense among citizens, even those who count themselves part of "civil society."

There was a sizable crowd (radio reports put it at 2,000) gathered late Saturday night at the Edsa Shrine when the first news of the "coup try" first filtered out. But by morning, the crowd had thinned considerably, save for a few stalwarts meeting at the "operations center" and the indomitable nuns in habits who braved the rains, the humidity and even the approaching pro-Erap rabble, standing at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas, praying the Rosary. If the mutineers could boast of those good-looking, young and "idealistic" officers, reportedly the best-trained of our men and women in uniform, the Church has its own "Prayer Rangers" in habits and veils.

A friend of mine, whose husband rushed to the Shrine Sunday morning but who chose merely to drive him there and went home to wait for him, put it best when I asked why she didn't stick it out there. "I don't want people to see me there and think I'm pro-Gloria," she declared.

Friends, normally the first ones to organize and mobilize at the first sign of a power grab, told of waking up to footage of the mutineers' first press conference and realizing—to their horror, they said—that they were silently agreeing with the issues the soldiers raised and sharing in their anger as the men in uniform spoke of graft and corruption in the military and irregularities in the conduct of the war in Mindanao.

* * *

IT was this ambivalence, the feeling of sympathy with the rebels' cause mixed in with anger at their arrogance at presuming to hold the entire country hostage, that provoked the roller-coaster of emotions all of Sunday.

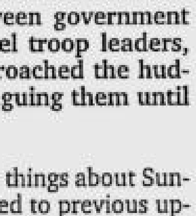
It was frightening, certainly, to see proof of how fragile our institutions are. It was alarming how a few officers, no matter how idealistic, with military-issue firearms and materiel, could hold off the combined might of the military and the authority of government. And it was worrying, imagining how the rest of the world was watching the news footage and writing off the Philippines as a bad credit and investment risk. How long shall we end up paying for the consequences of the "Magdalo" adventurism?

But it was even more dismaying to realize that—if we had but the training, the experience and the arms of the men in uniform—we could believe we would have been among them.

Misconceptions

Sense and Sensibility

Bambi L. Harper



REMEMBER how some decades ago school children were not allowed to speak any other language but English, resulting in graduates who could speak and write English but not Tagalog? As a matter of fact many Filipinos, who were not allowed even to use slang, could probably read and write English better than the average American.

Times change. It's finally fashionable to speak Tagalog in public (at least in certain circles) and to be anti-West and more pro-Asia. All these idiosyncrasies can be traced to our being a young nation (Cf. China's 5,000 years, etc.) still in the process of finding ourselves. In the same vein, there was a tendency to praise Americans at the expense of the Spanish colonizers some decades ago. That too, one imagines, is part of that process although nowadays we are no longer as dewy-eyed as before with regard to the Great White Father.

In effect there are all kinds of misconceptions and misinterpretations about those two colonizers. Who knows? Maybe it's normal to go through a love-hate relationship with one's conquerors. We don't know how the Spanish felt about the Moors despite their having settled in Spain for 800 years—it happened so long ago. But we do know there are mixed emotions between the British and the Americans until now, although when push comes to shove they'll stand together.

I was therefore struck by Dr. Fernando Zialcita's clarifications to an Internet group regarding "misleading stereotypes about Spanish influence on Filipino culture, particularly BUILT HERITAGE." I thought you might find his explanations credible like I do since I am particularly concerned that, with rapid development encroaching upon the suburbs and provinces, we may end up without a link to our past and urban areas basically devoid of character. According to Dr. Zialcita,

"1) two major problems [were]: A) Allegations are made about PARTICULAR Spanish abuses but no documentary evidence is adduced. B) Practices and values common during the Spanish period are not examined in their HISTORICAL-CULTURAL CONTEXT.

"2) Example: the use of 'forced labor' for the construction of structures. Every State (not to be confused with government) has to fund its operations with taxes. Today these are paid for with money.

"In the pre-capitalist world (pre-1800s), these were paid: a) in money, b) in kind or c) in labor services. Given the limited money in circulation in pre-1850s Philippines, roads and bridges were constructed and maintained using 'corvee' labor—*polo y servicios*. But you were allowed to pay in coinage as substitute. Exempt were women, old people, the sick, local officials and Spaniards. (The last category is what gives the system a colonial color, not 'corvee' as such.)

"3) How were the churches constructed? Documents show that priests would ask parishioners to bring together sand, stones, wood for construction. But the actual construction was entrusted to carpenters and masons. These were PAID. Indeed parish priests sought contributions from outside their parishes—from Manila for instance. Or they used their own stipends. The Vigan Cathedral's construction began in 1790. The bishop got so poor he had no money left for Masses to be said for his soul after death. [Father Galende at San Agustin also has documents listing salaries paid to laborers.]

"4) For comparison: 'corvee' labor was used throughout Europe and the United States down to the 19th century for roads and bridges. Likewise in other States. For instance, in 18th century Siam: 'corvee' was six months for the king's subjects; in 19th century Siam, reduced to three months. Reactions of subjects: flight to the hills, mutiny or passive resistance. The same occurred in parts of the Spanish Philippines, of course.

"5) For sure there were abuses here and elsewhere. The point, however, is to be wary of extreme nationalist propaganda that caricatures the Spanish as perverse. Or that explains all the problems today solely in terms of 1565-1898. [Dr. Zialcita forgets that the 50 years in Hollywood are also being blamed for the state of the nation.]

"6) Other allegations that spoil Filipinos' appreciation for their Hispanic heritage: A. barong Tagalog was the result of colonial decrees (No such decrees!) [Zialcita pointed out that it would have been stupid to have worn piña tucked in because it wrinkles easily. A more likely explanation is that both the Chinese and the Filipinos wore their shirts on the outside because of the heat.]

"B) The Spaniards did not start a public school system. (Our 1863 public schooling began earlier than most of the rest of Asia and even parts of Europe. Public schooling was invented worldwide only in the 19th century.)"

Probably other misconceptions abound. Some priests, I am told, used to believe (and perhaps still do) that colonial churches were symbols of our having been colonized, which was a good reason to demolish them and construct one of those numbing, featureless, generic-type edifices.

This, of course, is a disservice to the Filipino, given what the good prelates put in place of those "angels in stone." Unwittingly they destroyed what the ancestors of townspeople had so generously donated of their labor and money. Hopefully in time and with prosperity, the Filipino will have a more balanced view of his colonial past and be able to see colors other than black and white.

Love and leprosy

Young Blood

S.C.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE AMBULANCE carried me off from the Jose Reyes Hospital in Manila to the Tala Leprosarium. My whole body was covered with festering wounds. For the past two years I had been bedridden at home, unable to stand up. My remaining energy was being drained. The diagnosis of the doctor had sounded like a death sentence: You have leprosy (Hansen's disease).

I am the eldest of seven children of a poor family. Fresh from high school, I had started working in a factory because my dream of becoming a teacher was beyond reach. It was hard working in a factory for a girl of 16, but I became skilled at my job and I was happy to help my family.

As my dream of teaching faded away, it was replaced by a nightmare when I was 18 years old. I noticed red sports on my skin. I tried to keep it from my parents. But when my condition grew worse, they took me to a dermatologist who diagnosed it as an allergy.

A strict diet and medicines brought no relief. I had to resign from my job when I started running a fever and the red spots turned into open sores.

For two years I stayed at home, bedridden. There seemed to be no cure for my ailment. I started thinking that it would be better to die than to make life more miserable for my parents.

I was convinced that I had skin cancer, not Hansen's disease, for I had very little knowledge about this sickness.

Desperate, my father asked his employer for help. That was how we got to the Jose Reyes Hospital for consultation.

There I was assured that I would recover in no time at all at the Tala Leprosarium. Little did I know that my confinement there would last five years.

When I arrived at Tala, I was in critical condition. I was given the Last Sacrament.

My faith in God has always given me much strength. That time it was tested very severely. I could not accept that I had the dreaded disease. When I noticed the deformities of the older patients, I did not want to be part of their grim world. I would rather die than look like them, I told myself.

Every day Sister Pilar cleaned my wounds for hours. She assured me that with the present, effective medicines I would recover without deformities.

My mother was constantly at my side for six months. I began to notice that the older patients were happy and kind notwithstanding their situation. Gradually I regained some hope about my future.

After a few months, my wounds started to heal. My fear and feeling of hopelessness slowly disappeared.

After a year, all my wounds were gone, but my complete recovery was still a long way off. I had to undergo physiotherapy to be able to walk again with some assistance.

My stay in the Tala hospital also resulted in inner healing. Tala became a home for me. I appreciated the friendship and care of the hospital staff, fellow patients, church workers and many other people. Ultimately, I regained my self respect and self confidence.

Then it was time for my discharge. The hospital had done all it could do for me.

My dream of becoming a teacher was revived when I learned that the Holy Rosary College in Tala provides free education to Hansenites. But after being out of school for nine years, could I survive in college? How would my classmates treat me? Physiotherapy had not been able to recondition my right knee which remained bent at an angle of 90 degrees.

But positive thinking prevailed; no pain, no gain. Going to daily Mass strengthened my resolve. Everyone was wonderful to me, even when I felt insecure during my practice teaching in fourth year.

Last March, I finally graduated from college. It was a dream fulfilled for me and for my parents whose love never wavered over the years.

Even during my college years, I still had to continue my physiotherapy, till it became clear that only a surgery could correct my defect.

Soon after my graduation, I went to the National Orthopedic Hospital for consultations about my knee problem. The doctors said they had never handled a similar case and could not assure good results. Yet, their concern and competence convinced me to give it a try.

I was again lucky to enjoy the generosity of my friends when I underwent my operation last May. Four offered to give their blood. When three of them were disqualified, other friends volunteered at once.

The operation was successful, but I am back in Tala for a few more months of physiotherapy.

Hansen's disease is merciless. I was unfortunate to have been a victim of this ruthless disease. But in a world where practically every institution is under censure, I have met in my family, two government hospitals, a college and the Church countless people who cared for me. I am very grateful for their help and care, and I will never forget any of them.

My doctors told me I was the worst case admitted to Tala during the last 10 years. But I am sure I am also on top of the list of people who experienced true love. There and in my condition, I realized that love can bloom in the most unexpected places and under the harshest of circumstances.

S.C., 29, still stays at Tala.

THEY SAID

Pet bill

"It is my pet bill and each time Congress opens, I always make it a point to make it Senate Bill No. 1."

—Sen. Juan Flavier on the Tobacco Regulation Act

Real change

"If you want to make constitutional reforms, you have to redesign institutions. Don't think of personalities."

—Jose Abueva, former University of the Philippines president and member of the study group on Charter change

Prayer for priests

"We are used to asking the priests to pray for us. In these trying times for them and for the Church as a whole, I am asking you to pray for them."

—Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz

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No mining pollution on Homonhon Island

WE wish to clarify certain issues raised in the news item, "Probe of mining in E. Samar," by-lined by Ms Eden B. Cidro, that appeared in the July 16 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

For the information of the Diocese of Borongan and the public, Homonhon Island, Heritage's area of coverage, was burned down by honeybee collectors in 1982, 10 years before we started work on the area. Therefore, with or without mining, surface runoff is always caused even by the slightest rain. Our company continuously reforests, at our own cost, the affected areas, including those outside our responsibility.

The alleged massive environmental destruction and pollution, leveled against us since 1992, is recycled every time national officials visit Samar. It has been investigated in different occasions by several teams separately commissioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Mines and Geophysics Bureau (MGB) and the Regional Development Council (RDC) of Eastern Visayas. The RDC Team, in particular, was composed of multi-sectoral representatives from government, NGOs and the Catholic Church.

All three investigations concluded that the allegations are outright false; Heritage is actually rehabilitating mined out areas.

We are not aware that Fr. Alex Galo, Fr. Manuel Lunario, et al. conducted an investigation in Homonhon. Can we be furnished a copy of their report?

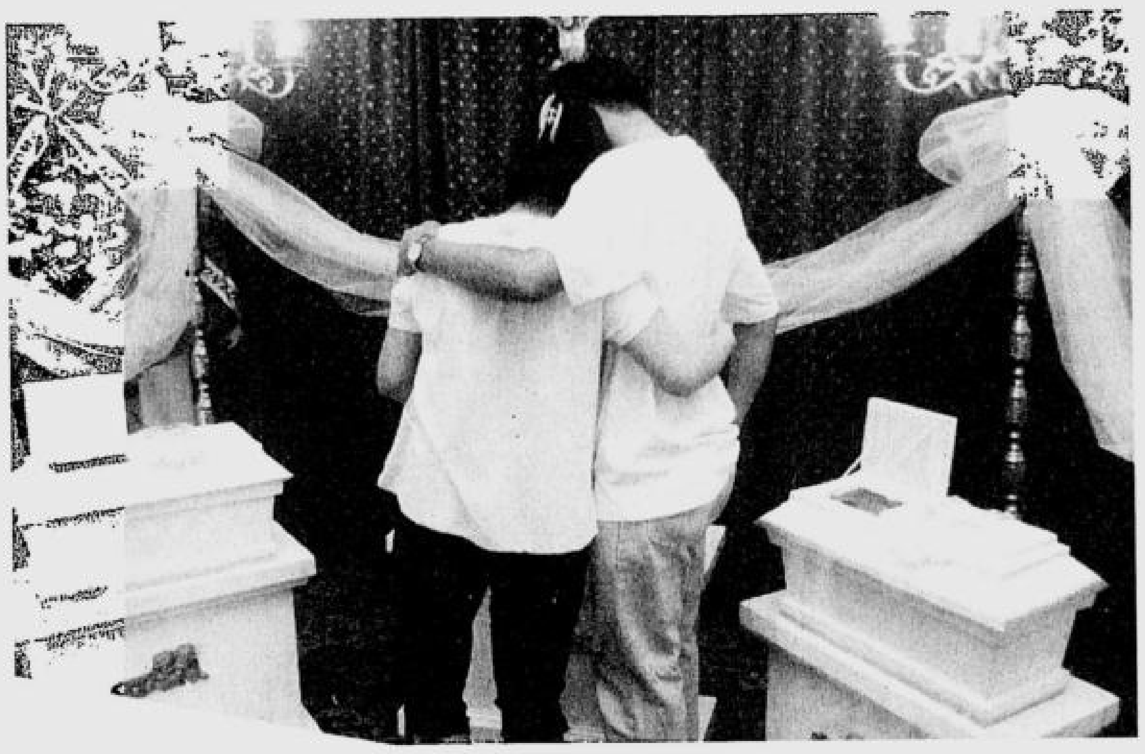
Our operations are monitored by the Multi-partite Monitoring Team (MMT) to ensure compliance with our Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). Father Lunario, our parish priest in Homonhon, and his duly authorized representative, Mr. Gorgonio Bagares, are MMT members.

It is rather surprising that the Diocese does not accept the investigation reports. However, we do welcome the request of the Diocese for an independent investigation to finally settle these issues once and for all. This investigation should include our social projects, such as the 37-kilometer barangay roads, domestic water supply system, among others.

Our Homonhon Livelihood Mining Program (HLMP) is a success story beyond compare. It benefited not only the cooperative miners but also the host barangays. No other entities, whether private or public, has ever provided economic benefits to Homonhon better than the HLMP. Not even the church. It has been copied in other parts of the country. If other cooperatives are inactive or were paid late, it was because of their failure to produce chromite at the contracted quality.

On the death of cooperative miner Mr. Nicasio Princillo, we invite the Diocese to confer with MGB. The safety report is a public document. If the company were remiss of its safety duties, it should have been suspended or closed by the MGB for safety infractions.

—CORNELIO Q. CASIDO,
president, Heritage Resources and Mining Corp., Heritage House, 1 April St., Congressional Village, Quezon City



The Calisaan story happens all the time

THE LIVES of the Calisaan quadruplets could have been saved if only they were promptly given proper medical attention. The simple fact that a hospital, whose main duty is to save the lives of its patients, is the reason for their demise raises disturbing questions on the state of our country's health care delivery system.

Unfortunately, the issue boils down to who has money and who doesn't. The rich flock to private hospitals and are given the best that their money can pay for, while the underprivileged settle for disgraceful services.

The hospital has become an institution that only looks after itself. If ever it decides to care for its patients, it is always for a price.

Mrs. Calisaan had expressed the hope that this tragic situation would never again happen to anyone else. With the publicity given to their story, the Calisaans' hospital expenses would probably be paid for by politicians looking for exposure, and some kind-hearted souls. Sadly, these acts of charity come a bit too late for they could never bring back the lives of the four babies.

In reality, this unfortunate event is being repeated all the time in other hospitals. The tragic part is we never hear about them; the cries of the victims never reach the papers.

—RALPH MARVIN GARCIA
and five other signatories from Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

MMDA sidewalk cleaners no pending salary claims

IN ORDER to set to record straight on the allegation of Ms Gina Deloso of Novaliches, Quezon City, regarding unpaid, overdue salaries of our sidewalk clearing personnel, (Overdue Salaries Still Unpaid, PDI, 7/9/03), please allow us to present the following facts:

1. As of July 14, 2003, only the June 16-30, 2003 salaries of the sidewalk clearing personnel have not been paid. They were eventually paid on July 15, 2003. At present, there are no pending claims for back salaries.

2. Our sidewalk clearing personnel were hired on a "job-order" basis, and since they are being paid for actual services rendered, their salaries cannot be paid on the exact *quincena* date.

3. Our sidewalk clearing personnel, under an enabling Special Order are entitled to Hazard Pay.

Alibis of errant men come aplenty when they go home on payday with their pockets empty. Maybe its high time for Ms Deloso to check the veracity of her brother-in-law's story.

—BAYANI F. FERNANDO, chair,
Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, MMDA Building, Edsa cor. Orense Street, Guadalupe, Makati City

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Bayan Muna barking up wrong tree

THIS is a rejoinder to the column of Mr. Conrado de Quiros regarding Rep. Crispin Beltran's vehement objection to Rep. Loretta Ann P. Rosales' proposal to expand the coverage of HB 4535 or the human rights compensation bill.

Representative Beltran and Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna, who issued a similar statement, are barking up the wrong tree. The proposal was suggested during a period of interpellation by almost all the representatives who spoke up on the bill.

At any rate, I think the proposal should be discussed on the basis of its merits rather than solely on the basis of its alleged source. I fully agree with De Quiros when he said that "including the other human rights victims doesn't mean letting the Marcoses off the hook, it means not letting the others who committed the same crimes off the hook. Justice is universal or it is not justice at all."

We in Claimants 1081 manifested our support to the proposal since we fully sympathize with and support all human rights victims. We also recognize the landmark character of the bill under consideration. After all, this is the first time that the Philippine state, in a legislative measure, formally recognizes its inherent responsibility for human rights violations.

I would also like to point out that nobody, during the interpellation, suggested the diminution or "watering down" of the actual funds to be drawn from the ill-gotten Marcos Swiss assets and earmarked for the Hawaii human rights class suit claimants (who already have a final and executory judgment).

I suggest to the gentlemen from Bayan Muna that they train their guns on the various ongoing attempts to minimize or divert the ill-gotten assets earmarked for the Marcos human rights victims. This is the more immediate and substantial danger to the interests of the human rights victims.

—RAMON CASIPLE, secretary general, Claimants 1081, 262 15th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City

Shared responsibility in educational reform

I READ with much interest your editorial last July 8 titled "Crisis in Education."

As acting chair of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, I am deeply concerned about the startling figures that reflect the dire conditions of our education system. For instance, the sad and biting reality in the countryside is that many of our *kababayans* cannot send their children even to our public schools.

Raising the standard of our education at all levels is a shared responsibility of both the public and private sectors. Especially because government allocation for education is inadequate. This is fairly obvious in the lack of classrooms, books and facilities in our public schools, not to mention the degrading salaries of our schoolteachers. The private sector of course has as much stake in the education of our children, as it is they who will eventually be the workforce and primary markets of the future.

There are many concrete measures that can be done. For one, we need to increase the salaries of teachers to more humane levels and grant them more incentives, such as tax discounts, affordable housing, access to low interest credit and health programs, among others.

Secondly, private sector participation and volunteerism should be tapped. The private sector needs to grant more scholarships for poor yet deserving students. Civic groups, even the Church, should be tapped for donations of books, school materials, as well as for teaching services.

Thirdly and most important, we should not forget the yearly campaign for a much higher budget for the education sector. This is something we in the Senate and the House of Representatives should be actively pursuing.

I believe, in the end, only a deafening and concerted clamor from the stakeholders themselves—the teachers, the students, the parents, the non-academic personnel and, yes, the media together with reform-minded government officials—can bring about meaningful policy reforms in our education system.

—FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN,
Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

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Conflict resolution?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE MAGDALO group, a small group of junior officers in the Armed Forces who took over part of Makati Sunday, was the first one to deny they were attempting a coup. Rather, it was their way to air their grievances to the nation, they said.

It was a costly exercise, especially in terms of the image presented to the outside world of instability and chaos. For several hours, we were the lead news item on BBC and CNN, with emphasis on how "rebels" had taken over the business hub of Metro Manila in what seemed to be a hostage situation, where the hostages included, according to BBC, "the Australian ambassador."

When ABS-CBN's Karen Davila asked the Magdalo spokes-person, Antonio Trillanes IV, why they couldn't have gone to the media with their story, he answered, and I'm paraphrasing, "If we did, we would have gone straight to the stockade, and after that, mass media would have just dropped our case."

Trillanes was right. After all, their claims—military collusion with the rebels through sales of arms, military-instigated bombing incidents and plans for martial law—have repeatedly surfaced in the mass media, even triggering congressional investigations but nothing seemed to have come out of these exposés.

With the Magdalo group, the feeling of urgency was greater, since they had been to the frontlines, seeing comrades fall in wars they felt were being prolonged to enrich military and government officials and to keep politicians in power. Some of the mutineers were members of special forces, experts at handling explosives so there is irony in the way these skills had to be used to create a major crisis situation of their own, just to be heard.

Yet after all has been said and done, I think they were co-opted, once again a victim of our deficiencies, as a society, when it comes to conflict resolution. Much will be said about the role of the mutineers' classmates and "mistahs" (upperclassmen) at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in mediating the crisis at Makati and finally convincing the Magdalo people to return to their barracks. But what intrigues me is that if the PMA mistah system is so powerful, why wasn't it functional when the Magdalo people needed them most, meaning before a crisis could erupt?

My suspicion is that for all the talk about solidarity among PMA alumni, it is one based more on subservience to authority and to codes of silence. Mind you, these norms are pervasive throughout Philippine society, and we've certainly seen the destructive consequences when used by the Catholic clergy. But when these codes are imposed within the PMA and the military establishment, often invoked in the name of "*hiya*" (shame), or of protecting national security, the entire nation pays.

Often enough, and I have seen this even in the most "rational" and "Westernized" institutions here—large corporations, universities—those who dare to challenge incompetence and corruption are harassed, subjected to the most vicious intrigues. Many will resign in disgust. Some will retreat into silence, content with their lot in life, or carving out their own quiet niche. The more opportunistic ones will also keep silent, but learn to play the game by turning corrupt themselves and getting their share of the loot.

The Magdalo group, unable to resolve their conflicts, turned to like-minded classmates from PMA days to try to resolve their conflicts. But the choice of the name, Magdalo, was ominous, reflecting the divisions that plagued the Katipunan in 1896. The Magdalo faction was that of Emilio Aguinaldo, who maneuvered his way to maintain leadership of a provisional revolutionary government. A relative of Andres Bonifacio was at the head of Magdiwang faction which lost in the end, Bonifacio himself being executed in this sectarian conflict.

The 21st century Magdalo group was too junior to fight for leadership, although I suspect they were pawns in a power struggle. In the end, desperate about bringing their case forward, they had to turn to the mass media in a way they felt would be more effective, via the drama of a solemn video declaring their withdrawal of support for the government, and the grand media event at Glorietta.

Were the conflicts resolved? I am not saying the mutineers should have pushed through with their bombs, but really, in the end, they were never really heard. Plans for a press conference where the mutineers could present their issues in greater detail eventually fizzled out. There was one chaotic briefing around 4 p.m., with little impact because of the bad sound and no video.

All throughout the crisis, politicians and PMA elders appearing on radio and television kept referring to the Magdalo group as "*mga bata*" (kids). In the end, the coup-turned-mutiny-turned-crisis looked more like a fraternity squabble, with elders finally coming in to crack the whip.

We have to ask ourselves if our own homes, schools, workplace have similar situations. We make a fetish of authority and teach our young to keep quiet rather than to try to argue out an issue. Many will learn it is wiser to keep their views to themselves. Some will speak out, and lose, and leave. Still others will learn to lie and to scheme.

When skyscrapers have to be demolished, they are strategically wired with dynamite for an implosion rather than explosion, the building caving in. That is what will happen if we continue to allow our social and political conflicts to simmer. Society can only take so much battering from within, reaching the point where its psyche is irreparably damaged. When this happens, there can be an implosion that will wreak much more havoc and damage than what would have happened in Makati had the C-4 explosives been set off.

Enforce law vs illegal use of sirens

WHILE I was on my way to the Manila Domestic Airport to catch a 3 p.m. flight to Cebu, I noticed several motorcycle-riding cops arrogantly shooing away motor vehicles to back off and clear the way for some big shot.

The motor vehicle, a blue, private Volkswagen van bearing Plate No. UPE-619, breezed through the checkpoint and unloaded its passenger who was whisked in through the security area.

When I got off my car. I asked them who they were escorting. They replied it was a certain Paul Dominguez. I asked them if this Dominguez is the president of the Philippines, the Senate president, the Speaker of the House, or the chief justice of the Philippines. No, they said. I then told them that if I remember my law right, these are the only four government officers allowed to be escorted with a "*wang-wang.*"

Section 2 and the penal provision of Presidential Decree 96, dated Jan. 13 1973, provides that violation of the law is punishable by a fine and up to six months of imprisonment. This is an existing law, valid and continues to be binding to this day. Sadly, it is a law that has long atrophied in the sickbed of non-enforcement. It is time to make it work.

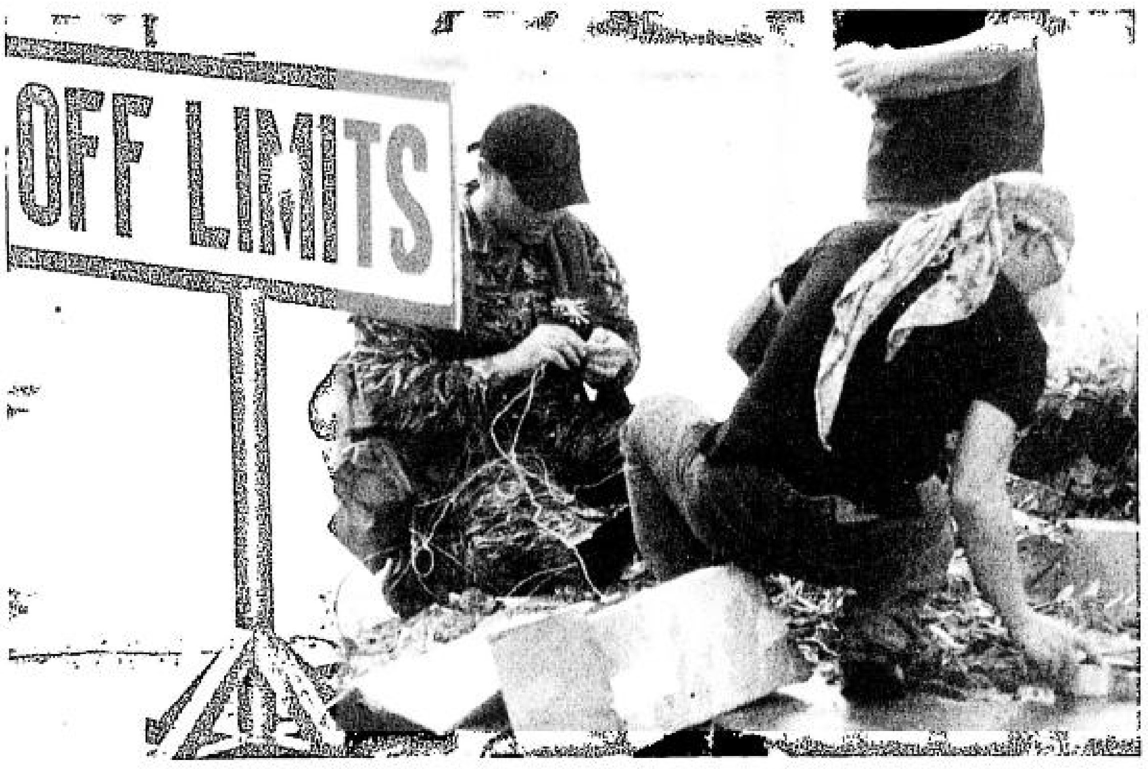
For this purpose, I have filed with the Land Transportation Office and the Philippine National Police my sworn statement on the incident as initiatory document for the filing of a criminal complaint against this Dominguez and his police escorts. At the same time, I have requested the two agencies to provide us with the following information:

1. The ownership details of the motor vehicle specified above;
2. The identity and rank of the motorcycle-riding cops who escorted the van and of the police officers who authorized these motorcycle-riding cops to escort Dominguez.
3. Whether this Dominguez has any other motor vehicle equipped with sirens, blinkers, lights, etc. in violation of law.

People of the kind of Dominguez and his police cohort—whoever they may be and who strut around with siren-blaring cops, as if they were the only ones in a hurry—must be told that there is a law, and this law can be made to work.

—ANTONIO A. OPOSA JR.,
president, The Law of Nature Foundation, Suite 6-J Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City

2 bodies formed to probe mutiny, Davao bombings



MUTINOUS soldiers defuse explosives they planted at the Makati commercial center following their surrender Sunday night.

EGAY MONTANA

From page A1

Representatives wants a joint congressional inquiry into the grievances of the young military officers who staged the mutiny.

Senate President Franklin Drilon announced that the committee of the whole would give the Senate an opportunity not only to look into the reasons behind the mutiny but also to propose solutions.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., for his part, said the concerns raised by the mutineers deserved the full attention of Congress.

In her State of the Nation Address at the joint opening of Congress, Ms Macapagal said: "Yesterday, without bloodshed, without damage to property and within a single day, we overcame an ill-conceived mutiny carried out by misguided military officers."

"Such actions are deplorable and will be met with the full force of the law, including the political component," she said.

Ms Macapagal made clear the fate awaiting the mutineers. "But we need to reduce the risks of living, not to mention doing business here, which is why yesterday's rogues must go to jail."

The President admitted that the failed meeting signaled an "underlying problem that we must address."

"I am constituting an independent commission to investigate the roots of the mutiny and the provocations that inspired it," she said.

Hours before the President delivered her Sona, the military hierarchy moved to create a special task force to investigate some 300 soldiers, who seized the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center in Makati City on Sunday.

The task force, which is to be headed by Inspector General Lt. Gen. Librado Ladia and composed of 10 teams from the armed forces' major services, will be convened today, according to Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer.

"The result of the investigation will determine the cases to be filed or the organization of a court martial (against the officers)," he said, adding that the mutineers will be probed under the Articles of War, the military equivalent of the Revised Penal Code.

Lucero said that the creation of the 10 teams was aimed at expediting the investigation.

In a well-applauded 45-minute Sona, Ms Macapagal said that upon the request of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, she would create an independent commission to investigate the Davao bombings.

Leaders of the mutiny have accused Reyes and military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus of being behind the Davao bombings and the sale of ammunition to Moro and communist rebels.

Ms Macapagal thanked the PNP for its "solid support" in the mutiny but she said a reform commission would be created to recommend the overhaul of the organization.

"And I am sure they themselves welcome a comprehensive reform that will cure the organization not only of the failures on the scale of the Al-Ghozi escape but also the daily devils that are the *kotong* (mulcting) cops," she said.

Al-Ghozi, a convicted Indonesian bomb expert who had confessed to his involvement in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila that killed 22 people, escaped from Camp Crame on July 15 during the visit of Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

Loudest applause

Ms Macapagal admitted that the Republic was not yet strong as she wanted it to be.

But it was her announcement that she would lift the moratorium on death penalty for drug traffickers that drew the longest applause from the senators, congressmen, diplomats and guests that gathered for her Sona at the House of Representatives.

"By now, we should be at peace: At peace in the South, in the countryside, safe in our homes and secure in our communities. But we remain at war. At war against terrorism. At war against corruption. At war against disease. At war against drugs, the greatest menace facing our country today," she said.

Ms Macapagal said the government scored a major blow against illegal drugs—"P8 billion (worth of seized drugs and materials) in five weeks."

"It is a pity that a few days later after the penultimate success against the drug menace, we should find ourselves at war against destabilizers in the military," she said.

The President laid down her vision of a strong republic in her Sona last year. At the moment, she said, it had not yet been achieved.

"A strong republic does not happen overnight; nor in two or three years. Nor does it happen once and for all. It must be sustained, as much by the strength of will as by professionalism," she said.

But the President said she had "delivered in great part" on the commitments she made last year. She submitted a technical report of her performance to Congress.

Ms Macapagal said many of the reforms she instituted since becoming President had started to bear fruit "and it will be a harvest of plenty."

She said the government hit hard on terrorism and "took a firm stand on the right side of the line in the war on terrorism."

Talks with MILF

With the help of De Venecia, the government is advancing toward formal peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army, the President said.

She said formal talks with the MILF would start next week, with the help of Malaysia and the United States.

"We, all of us Filipinos, have to decide once and for all, whether we want peace or we want war. I am prepared as ever to take all reasonable steps toward peace," she said.

The President said the greatest menace facing the country was illegal drugs. "This is one fight I am taking everywhere, if we have to knock on every door."

She drew the loudest applause when she said: "For the big fish in illegal drugs, they cannot count on a moratorium on death penalty."

"In other things, I am still pro-life," she quipped, drawing more applause. "I will veto any bill that will try to smuggle in abortion."

The President congratulated the Supreme Court "for finally granting what has taken much too long to materialize: authorizing the allocation and use of private loot for laudable public purposes."

P8 billion for rights victims

She asked Congress to pass a measure setting aside P8 billion for the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime.

The President also vowed that the coconut levy funds would benefit the coconut farmers through the modernization of the coconut industry.

"I will not allow the coconut farmers to get the short end of the stick," she said in Filipino.

Ms Macapagal asked Congress to pass nine vital measures necessary to sustain her reforms, including Senate ratification of five remaining United Nations conventions against terrorism.

The measures include the proposed anti-terrorism law with the harshest penalty for collusion, Transco franchise, campaign finance aimed at leveling the political playing field, use of farmland as collateral, rationalization of excise tax on automobiles, elimination of documentary stamp tax, creation of the National Revenue Authority, and indexation of sin taxes.

"We cannot stay divided with so much need to do together ... I need you; we need each other," she said.

Granddaughter

Wearing a purple Filipiniana gown with a yellow sash, the President provided a glimpse of her personal life.

"A life of leadership is a difficult one, with few pauses for comfort and relief. These days, I find that rare moment of joy in the company of my family "especially my baby granddaughter Mikaela," she said.

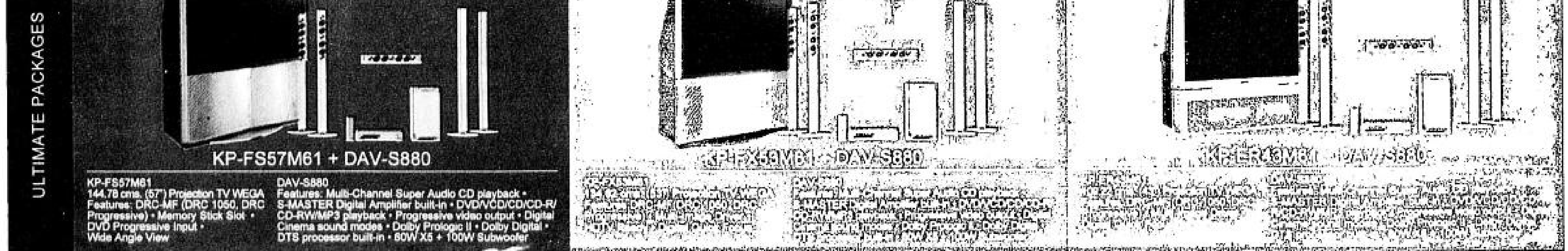
Television cameras focused on the bubbly daughter of the First Couple's eldest son Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and Angela Montenegro, who were seated at the gallery.

"Just as I will do everything to make sure that the future will be kind to Mikaela and her generation, so must we all strive to turn our fears into a resolve to do right not just by ourselves, but by our children and grandchildren," she said.

Ms Macapagal smiled as she called for God's blessings on the country in several dialects.

Unlike her 2002 Sona, the President did not make any specific targets for the last 10 months of her term. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Cynthia D. Balana and TJ Burgonio*

SONY
Expect compliments of titanic proportions
WEGA THEATRE
"Possibly better than the reel thing."



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Avid Greenbelt 3
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Greenbelt 3,
Makati City

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Ground Level,
Power Plant Mall,
Rockwell, Makati City

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SM Megamall,
Mandaluyong City

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Tierra Nueva Subdivision,
Alabang-Zapote Road,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bob Hope: Thanks for a century of laughs

LOS ANGELES—Bob Hope, master of the one-liner and favorite comedian of US servicemen and presidents alike, has died, less than two months after turning 100.

Hope died late Sunday of pneumonia at his home in Toluca Lake, California, with his family at his bedside, longtime publicist Ward Grant said Monday.

The US most-honored comedian, a millionaire many times over, was a star in every category open to him—vaudeville, radio, television and film, most notably a string of "Road" movies with longtime friend Bing Crosby. For decades, he took his show on the road to bases around the world, boosting the morale of servicemen from World War II to the Gulf War.

He perfected the one-liner, peppering audiences with a fusillade of brief, topical gags.

"I bumped into Gerald Ford the other day. I said, 'Pardon me.' He said, 'I don't do that anymore,'" a reference to Ford's pardon of former President Richard Nixon.

He poked fun gently, without malice, and made himself the butt of many jokes. His golf scores and physical attributes, including his celebrated ski-jump nose, were frequent subjects:

"I want to tell you, I was built like an athlete once—big chest, hard stomach. Of course, that's all behind me now."

When Hope went into one of his monologues, it was almost as though the world was conditioned to respond. No matter that the joke was old or flat; he was Bob Hope and he got laughs.

"Audiences are my best friends," he liked to say. "You never tire of talking with your best friends."

He was admired by his peers, and generations of younger comedians. Woody Allen called Hope "the most influential comedian for me."

Hope earned a fortune, gave lavishly to charity and was showered with awards, so many that he had to rent a warehouse to store them.

Though he said he was afraid of flying, Hope traveled countless miles to entertain servicemen in field hospitals, jungles and aircraft carriers from France to Berlin to Vietnam to the Gulf. His Christmas tours became tradition.

He headlined in so many war zones that he had a standard joke for the times he was interrupted by gunfire: "I wonder which one of my pictures they saw?"

So often was Hope away entertaining, and so little did he see his wife, Dolores, and their four adopted children, that he once remarked, "When I get home these days, my kids think I've been booked on a personal appearance tour."

Hope had a reputation as an ad-libber, but he kept a stable of writers and had filing cabinets full of jokes. He never let a good joke die—if it got a laugh in Vietnam, it would get a laugh in Saudi Arabia.

On his 100th birthday, he was too frail to take part in public celebrations, but was said to be alert and happy—and overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection. The fabled intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street was renamed Bob Hope Square, and President George W. Bush established the Bob Hope American Patriot Award.

"He can't believe that this is happening and that he's made it to his Big 100," son Kelly Hope said at the time. *AP*

HOPE

US soldiers manhandle Japanese journalist

TOKYO—A Japanese reporter was manhandled and briefly detained by US troops in Baghdad after filming their weekend raid on a house in search for ousted president Saddam Hussein, Japanese press reports said Monday.

Kazutaka Sato, 47, was held in an arm-lock, thrown to the ground and kicked by several US soldiers on Sunday when he was filming the bodies of Iraqis being removed from a car which was shot up in the raid, the reports said.

Sato suffered slight injuries to his face and hands, the Kyodo news agency and the newspaper Asahi reported from Baghdad. He had his hands tied and was detained for about an hour.

When members of the Western media approached, Sato was released and his camera, which had been confiscated, was handed back to him, the Asahi said.

Five Iraqis died in the night raid in the wealthy Baghdad neighborhood of Mansour, according to an AFP report from Baghdad.

The owner of the home was Sheikh Amir Rabiha Mohammed al-Shammar, a relative of Saddam Hussein. Shammar said he believed five Iraqis were killed in an exchange of fire, but he was not there when US troops raided the home, which was targeted during the air war on Iraq.

Sato, the leader of Japan Press, a group of independent Japanese journalists active in covering conflicts in the world, told Asahi that he was filming from behind a cordon set by US troops. *AFP*

PRESS photographers take pictures of the chair of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, on his arrival in a Black Hawk helicopter as an escorting Apache helicopter lands in Baghdad on Sunday. Myers said that Saddam Hussein was moving around trying to avoid capture and unable to direct the attacks against US forces.

AP

US patrol attacked in Baghdad; 2 wounded

BAGHDAD—A US patrol was attacked with a grenade in broad daylight in central Baghdad on Monday, and two soldiers were badly wounded and possibly killed.

A US officer at the scene said that two of his men had been badly wounded in the attack but declined to say whether they had died. Iraqi police said the two were dead.

A military spokesperson had no official comment.

Soldiers surrounded the Humvee after the attack with rifles at the ready. One soldier was slumped motionless in the back seat of the vehicle and another lay on the road. Neither received any medical attention and they were later driven away in the back of a truck, one covered in blood.

"The car went to get some water. When it came back, somebody threw a grenade at it," 1st Lt. Brian Ryan said at the scene of the attack.

Local witnesses said the grenade was dropped on the vehicle from a bridge at a major intersection.

"The grenade was thrown from the bridge. I think they were dead. The bodies were taken away by other soldiers," said Ali Haadi, who lives nearby.

The incident highlighted how easy it is for guerrillas to attack US troops. The grenade was dropped on a heavily armed convoy and the assailant quickly melted away in an area that was not densely populated. *Reuters*

Liberians forage for food amid fighting

MONROVIA—Heavy gunfire rang out across Liberia's capital on Monday as rebels attacked Double Bridge on a route that cuts toward the home of the embattled president, Charles Taylor.

Pinging bullets forced citizens to crouch low as they raced through deadly streets in a desperate search for food and water.

Bursts of heavy gunfire echoed around the two bridges at the threshold of the city center after rebels rejected a US call to pull out immediately so peacekeepers can deploy.

"We managed to hold them off at the bridge and push them back," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Yeaten said.

The rebels of Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy have been battling inside the city limits for 10 days to oust Taylor, a former warlord who has agreed, under US pressure, to quit if peacekeepers come.

West African officials were due to meet in Ghana on Monday to finalize plans to send in troops, but their task will become much more difficult if the rebels keep hold of Monrovia's port.

The rebels have said they would hand it over when foreign troops come, not before.

The top official of West Africa's regional bloc Ecowas has said troops will arrive this week. West African leaders have pledged to deploy some 1,300 Nigerian soldiers as the vanguard force of a larger mission.

On Sunday, at least 14 people were killed as fighting shifted back and forth, but by the end of the day the front line had changed little.

"People are just moving up and down, shedding tears, mourning their families. The situation is not humanly comprehensible," said aid worker Patrick Broh from the West Point district, where nearly 100 have died in recent days.

The government says 1,000 civilians have been killed in the latest attack on a city battered by 14 years of violence.

The United States has long been seen by Liberia as a covert ally of the rebels because of its military aid to Guinea—their main backer. Yeaten said he feared the US call to withdraw was "a fake" to disguise rebel attack plans.

"It annoys me because we have done everything that they have told us to do," he said.

Pamela Bridgewater, a senior US state department official, visited Guinea for talks with the foreign minister on Sunday, and called on all parties to accept a ceasefire immediately. *Reuters*

Hun Sen party takes lead in poll count

PHNOM PENH—Prime Minister Hun Sen's party took an early lead in six constituencies as vote counting began Monday in general elections that were tainted by a grenade explosion and scattered reports of irregularities, independent monitoring groups said.

The Cambodian People's Party (CPP) was leading in Phnom Penh municipality, Kampong Cham and Battambang provinces with about 40 percent of total votes counted, said Hang Puthea, director of the local election monitoring group Nicfec.

Government spokesperson Khieu Kanharith, a CPP member, predicted his party would win the elections, held Sunday, with the opposition Sam Rainsy Party finishing second, making gains at the expense of the royalist Funcinpec party.

"Up to this hour, based on the ballots that have been counted, the CPP will get at least 70 seats" in the 123-member National Assembly, he said.

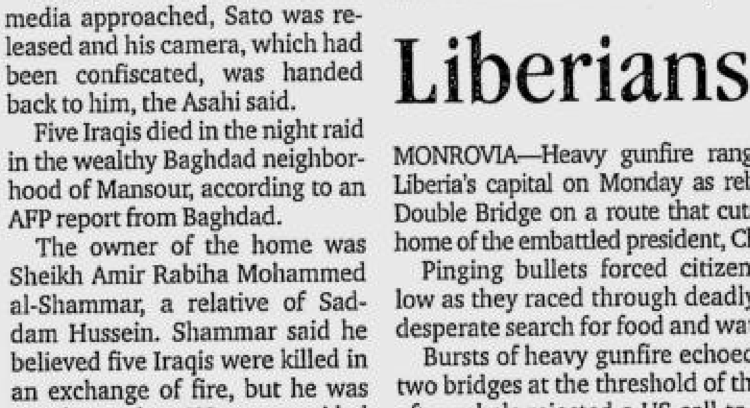
Thun Saray, of the election monitoring group Comfrel, also confirmed that the CPP had taken the lead in Battambang in addition to Kampong Chhnang, Takeo and Svay Rieng provinces. In some places, the CPP had garnered 44 percent of the votes, he said.

Final official results are expected on Aug. 8. The National Assembly represents 24 constituencies from 20 provinces and four municipalities.

Khieu Kanharith said the Sam Rainsy Party was "truly leading" in Phnom Penh, "but nationwide the Sam Rainsy Party plus Funcinpec party still cannot catch up with the CPP."

"At this point, we have eaten them up significantly," he said.

The results are no surprise as the CPP, which has been in power since 1979, was widely expected to win to give Hun Sen five more years at the helm. *AP*



WAITING FOR HELP

REUTERS

A villager waits for rescue workers in southern Pakistan on July 28. At least 16 people were killed after swirling flood waters swept away villages in southern Pakistan, police and relief workers said on Saturday.

Burma pledges to free Suu Kyi

JAKARTA—Amid intense international pressure, the foreign minister of Burma (Myanmar) indicated Monday that pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi may be released from detention.

But Foreign Minister Win Aung, visiting Indonesia for talks, did not say when that might happen.

Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, has been held in a secret location since May 30 when her supporters clashed with a pro-junta mob in northern Burma.

When asked whether there was a possibility Suu Kyi would be released, Win Aung—speaking in Jakarta ahead of a meeting with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri—replied: "Of course. She will not remain there for a long period."

Megawati currently chairs the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, of which Burma is also a member. The regional grouping is under pressure to help find a solution to issue.

After the meeting between Megawati and Win Aung, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda told reporters the visitors had recommended that diplomatic talks over the detention be "quieter" and held "away from the media glare." *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, July 29, 2003
St. Martha

1st Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-16
Gospel: Jn 11:19-27

Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to offer consolation at their brother's death.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him while Mary remained sitting in the house. And she said to Jesus, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection, at the last day." But Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection; whoever believes in me, though he die, shall live. Whoever is alive by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha then answered, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

Commentary

"Great wonders are wrought by faith." Martha came to know the full truth of that in the gospel reading today. Her brother Lazarus had died. Jesus came in a little late, and so she was in despair. If only he had arrived earlier. This wasn't a statement of blame, rather it was a most profound expression of her faith. She knew he could have saved him, and she still knew that if he wanted to, he could still do it. Such a deep trust in the power and compassion of Jesus could only be given a response as spectacular as the one given by Jesus: Lazarus raised from the dead. How many times in our lives have we found ourselves down, almost beaten, almost ready to give up. Then all of a sudden, from out of nowhere, we find the courage to pick ourselves up and say, "I will rise up. I may be down but not out." And we find our mood changed, our disposition transformed, our strength restored. "Be brave, and great forces shall come to your aid." There's tremendous truth to that line we often hear during personality and team building workshops. Jesus could very well have meant the very same thing when, looking at the distraught Martha, he reminds her of the overwhelming power of faith: "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies, will live and never die."

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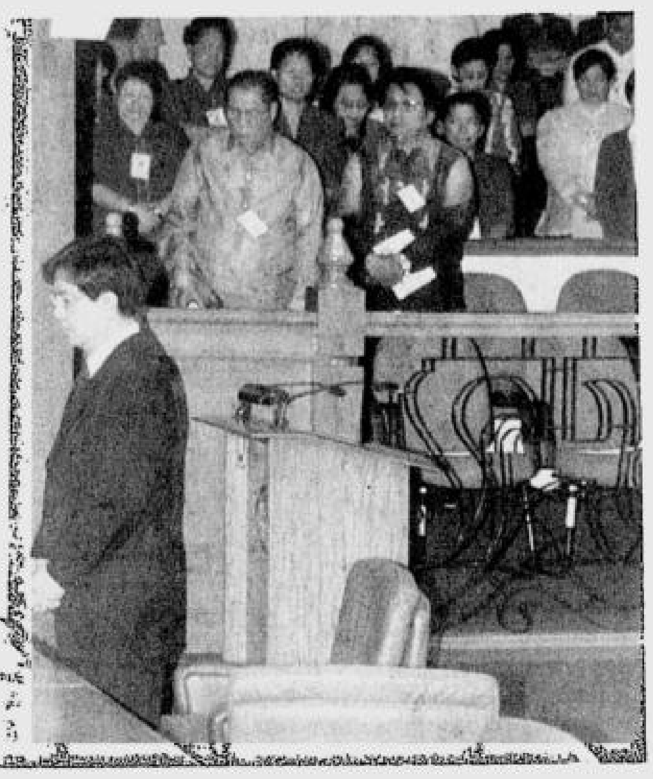
What a difference a day makes

A RALLY by militant groups causes a massive traffic jam along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

THREE women senators—Loi Ejercito-Estrada, Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Loren Legarda-Leviste—share a light moment shortly before the start of the 12th Congress. JESS YUSON



SEN. Panfilo Lacson stands beside the empty chair of PMA classmate Sen. Gregorio Honasan who skipped the reopening of Congress. JESS YUSON

A REPORTER of the Australian Times keys in his report on his laptop unmindful of the rebel soldiers around him in the Oakwood lobby in Makati City. JESS YUSON

President pays tribute to unheralded Filipino achievers

By Volt Contreras

THE 45-MINUTE speech began with a reminder that "we remain at war," but also included a short tribute to almost unheralded Filipino achievers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the following achievers were examples of how Filipinos made "extraordinary responses" to the country's problems, "surprising even ourselves and reviving faith in our future."

- Iloilo-based teacher Josette Biyo, "World Champion in Science and Math Teaching, (who also) has a planet in the Solar System named after her."
- Seventy-two-year-old Luz Lozada of San Isidro, Davao del Sur, for recently being hailed as an "Outstanding Farmer" advancing hybrid rice technology, which can double annual harvests and farmers' incomes.
- Sonny Ayao, "who became a *mujahideen* at age 12 and fought under the Moro National Liberation Front for 27 years"—but is now a community organizer.
- Barangay Inug-ug, Pagalungan, Maguindanao, where the community "politely asked" both the military and the Muslim separatists "to leave and take their fight elsewhere, thereby making their community a sanctuary of peace."
- The villagers of Barangay Vacante in Alcala, Pangasinan, who "took the hit, fought on and valiantly overcame the (SARS) crisis."
- Police Colonel Boysie Rosales, "the terror of drug lords, who turned down a P35-million bribe."
- Police officers Cayetano Gannaban and Raul Graza who "fought off 20 rebels in a firefight in Quinapondan, Eastern Samar."
- The Filipinos in Kuwait who, despite the recent US attack on neighboring Iraq, "refused to abandon their jobs... (and) took care of themselves and the people around them during the conflict."

Allies, foes convinced ...

From page A1

bye. She did not say it was her last Sona (State of the Nation Address)," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

Despite Ms Macapagal's silence on her political plans, Drilon claimed that the President's body language during the speech proved that she was bent on seeking election. "I think there is more than an even chance that she will run. I will not put my money on the side that she is not running."

This was a clear "signal" to her party mates in the ruling party, according to Drilon. "Politically, the Sona was significant in what it did not say."

His observation was shared by Heherson Alvarez, secretary general of the ruling Lakas-MCD. "I think 90 percent she should be running," he said.

Alvarez said the President spoke of her intention to run through a figure of speech. By appealing to all sectors to help her realize her dreams for the people, the President, he said, sent the message that she wanted them to be with her when she started rebuilding a republic.

Administration Sen. Robert Barbers also believed that the President might change her decision not to stand for election next year.

"When she starts greeting in regional dialects, that's a sure sign that she is up for reelection," opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said.

Fellow opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel noted that the President was behaving as if she was already in the campaign trail.

"She actually spoke in tongues—Capampangan, Ilonggo, Bisaya and Ilocano, which politicians on the campaign trail always do," Pimentel said.

He added: "It looks like the President is up and running, and only the blind will fail to see that."

Even Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said the tenor and message of Ms Macapagal's Sona clearly indicated that she would run.

"It's getting very clear. She is not saying goodbye. She just started a new campaign," Marcos said.

Marcos said it was also "very clear" that the President was attracting the attention of all sectors to her achievements as president and was actually appealing to them for support.

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E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
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Protesters back call to oust GMA

DEMONSTRATORS from leftist groups yesterday took to the streets in various places in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao to express support for the failed mutiny's call for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In Southern Tagalog, at least 2,000 farmers, students and members of leftist organizations led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) proceeded to the Batasang Pambansa Compound to time their protest with the State of the Nation speech of Ms Macapagal.

"As long as the fundamental problems of the basic masses in our country remain, there will be no genuine triumph of democracy. How can we be triumphant when the farmers still have no land to till and the workers yet suffer from unjust wages and repression of labor rights?" Edwin Alog, secretary general of Bayan-Southern Tagalog said.

He also condemned Sunday's declaration of a state of rebellion, saying that it was proof of Arroyo's "militarist and fascist approach against those that are critical of the government and those that uphold their rights."

They also called for the junking of the anti-terrorism bill which the President asked Congress to pass.

"Even if the coup attempt is over, the economic and political crisis will create broader discontent and clamor of the Filipino people to topple her crumbling Strong Republic," Alog said.

Twelve protesters bearing body paint spelled out the words: Oust Gloria!

The protesters from all over the nation branded a 17-foot puppet of a mobile Gloria in athletic outfit and in a running stance.

In Iloilo and Negros Occidental, at least 4,000 members of militant groups yesterday staged separate rallies to express their own state of the nation address.

About 2,700 members of Bayan and its allied organizations marched around the streets of Iloilo City.

Some 800 persons joined a separate rally initiated by the Sanlakas at the St. Clement's Compound where the offices of the Departments of Labor and Employment and of Agrarian Reform in Lapaz District, Iloilo.

In Negros Occidental, about 600 protesters joined the Bayan-Negros protests calling on President Macapagal to step down.

About 300 Sanlakas members also gathered in front of the Fountain of Justice at the Bacolod City Hall where they slammed President Macapagal for failing to fulfill her promises during People Power II in 2001.

The militant groups In Iloilo supported the call of Makati mutineers for the resignation of the President, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Army intelligence chief Brig. General Victor Corpuz.

Clarice Colting, Romulo Ponte, Gil Francis Arevalo and Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Ma. Diosa Labiste, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Gloria orders Army to clear villages of rebs

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., *PDI Visayas Bureau*

DINGLE, Iloilo—Government troops are set to clear two hinterland villages of communist rebels upon orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Alcasid, commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said Special Operation Teams (SOT) would be deployed to the hinterland villages of Igcabugao and Igtubli in the town of Igbaras, 28 kilometers south of Iloilo City.

The 3rd ID has units deployed to the islands of Panay, Negros, Cebu and Bohol.

The villages are among the priority areas with rebel presence on the island, Alcasid told reporters in Camp Adriano Hernandez in this town during ceremonies marking the turnover of command of the Army's Task Force Panay (TFP).

Col. Jogy Leo Fojas, newly designated TFP commander, said they would put up a company of Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) in each of the two priority barangays after the SOTs were withdrawn, two months after their deployment to the areas.

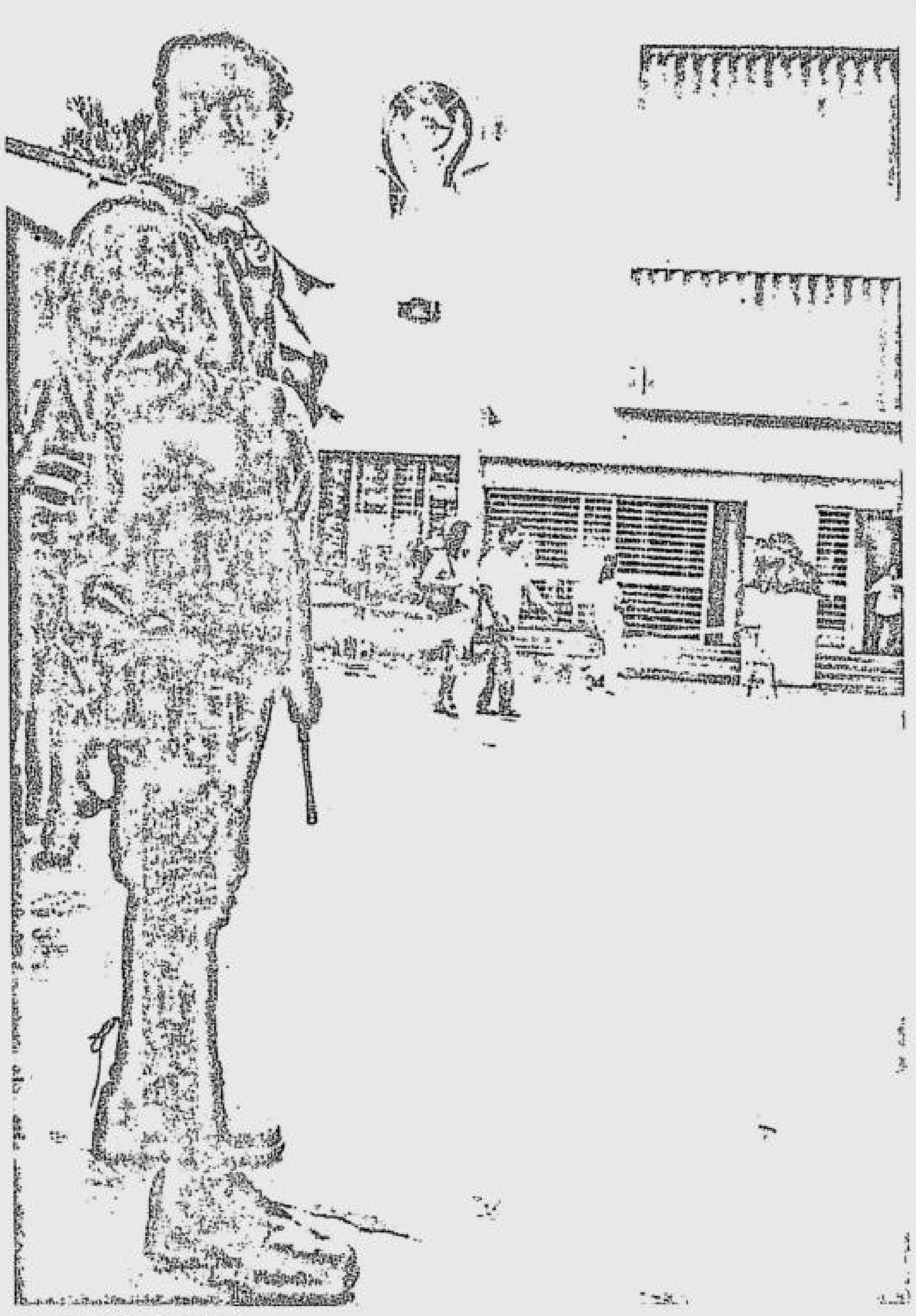
Fojas replaced Col. Jeffrey Sodusta who was designated as commander of the 303rd Brigade covering Negros Island.

Fojas said he would also study the current disposition of troops on the island based on the island's priorities and needs. He said they need at least an additional battalion (around 500 men) for the island.

President Macapagal ordered the clearing of the villages when she presided over the Provincial Peace and Order Council when she visited Barangay Tabiak, Igbaras on July 16.

Alcasid said the peace and order situation on the island is better compared to other areas under his command.

But he identified Tapaz town in Capiz as the most critical area in the counterinsurgency campaign on the island. The town is where the NPA started its movement on the island in the 1970s, according to Alcasid.



FAMILIAR SCENE

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A policeman in combat uniform stands guard outside the San Pedro Cathedral in Davao City, creating a familiar scene outside the church following a police alert for more attacks from Moro guerrillas.

Guerrillas-turned-soldiers asked to be loyal to gov't

COTABATO CITY—Mayor Muslimin Sema, secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), has directed his fellow former rebels who have been integrated into the military to remain loyal to the Constitution and resist destabilization attempts by some members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

About 7,500 former MNLF have been integrated into the AFP under the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the guerrilla group that was signed during the term of former President Fidel Ramos.

"They were under instructions to remain in their respective posts in various AFP units and defend the duly constituted authority," Sema told the INQUIRER.

Reacting to the mutiny staged by what government described as rogue soldiers in Makati City, Sema said experiences in the past were clear indications that attempts to topple the government would fail.

"Our former combatants now in the mainstream military unit are disciplined because they have underwent two trainings—that from the MNLF and the AFP (when they were integrated)," Sema said.

About 200 former MNLF fighters were trained and are now junior officers of the Armed Forces deployed to various military units in Mindanao.

"We are very proud of them, they remained loyal to the Armed Forces and the commander-in-chief," he added.

He also lauded the national leadership for the peaceful ending of the Makati City rebellion.

Sema said while the means was wrong, he was convinced the causes of Sunday's mutiny were legitimate and must be look into by the national leadership.

Sema expressed concern over the issues raised by the Magdalo group that the Davao City bombings was the work of the military.

He said the accusations came from within the military organization and that it was serious.

The two bombings led to the arrest of Muslims, mostly in Cotabato City, after they were suspected of carrying out the bomb attacks.

Sema has condemned the manner the arrests were carried out by police and military agents, fearing they might have taken the wrong guys. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cha-cha proposed as alternative to force in quelling rebellion

DAVAO CITY—The government should introduce amendments to the Constitution instead of using its military might to quell the Bangsamoro rebellion.

Abhoud Syed Linga, chair of the Bangsamoro Peoples Consultative Assembly (BCPA), recently told delegates to the 21st session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations (UNWIP) in Geneva that militarization will only increase the sufferings of civilians.

In the said speech, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, Linga told the UNWIP, which met at the Palais de Nations from July 21-25, that more than 300,000 people had been displaced by recent clashes aimed at suppressing the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"Majority of the internally displaced persons are children, women and the aged, the vulnerable sectors of society. Many died in evacuation centers, including children. Around half of the reported IPs (indigenous peoples) have yet to return to their homes," he said.

Linga said the "displacement of the population is indeed a tragedy."

"The livelihood of people is disrupted, schooling of children is interrupted (and many even have to stop schooling), cultural and religious life of people is disturbed. The uncertainty of life in the evacuation centers and life after they return to their homes haunts many IPs," he said.

To end the Bangsamoro rebellion, Linga suggested the government introduce amendments to the Constitution, which would include the recognition of the rights of the indigenous peoples to self-determination.

He said mechanisms to pursue this right, including the right to secede, through peaceful and democratic means should also be provided.

"In so doing, the struggle of the Bangsamoro people for self-determination and government response will be drawn within the ambit of the rule of law," he said. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops seize 34kg of marijuana from bus passengers

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Police confiscated at least 34 kilograms of dried marijuana bricks from two bus passengers in Sta. Fe town on Sunday night.

Reports said the marijuana leaves were wrapped in newspaper and sealed by masking tape. These were put in a carton box and loaded in a Metro Manila-bound bus.

Police arrested Betty Binuluyan, 41, of Hungduan, Ifugao; and Edwin Polig, of Banaue, Ifugao, said to be the marijuana bricks' owners. The shipment was estimated to be worth P45,000.

The marijuana leaves, reports said, were found by policemen while conducting a body and baggage search at a checkpoint set up in Barangay Tactac in Sta. Fe.

"I knew it was illegal, sir, but I had to do it for the money," said Binuluyan.

She said she was paid by a certain Regina to escort the contraband.

If the shipment reaches its destination, Binuluyan said she would get P200 a kg. For this particular delivery, she said she was to receive P6,000, a far cry from what she earns from farming.

She said she used to farm a small parcel of land at the rice terraces of Barangay Hapao in Hungduan, Ifugao, but the meager income forced her into the illegal trade of marijuana. *Melvin Gascon and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rising land costs make housing program tougher

DAVAO CITY—The local government of the Island Garden City of Samal (Igacos) is losing land for its settlement sites for squatters as landowners prefer to sell property to subdivision developers from Davao City.

Land speculation has also destroyed development plans for the island because most of the housing projects are reportedly under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and prime agricultural areas.

But the city government could no longer afford the prices of land because of the increase in real estate costs.

Along the beachfront of Igacos, lands are sold from P3 million to P5 million per hectare.

City Administrator Cleto Gales Jr. said the entry of land buyers is depriving the poor homes. The city has a housing backlog of 4,000 units.

The barangay of Babak alone has squatters who need to be relocated.

But Gales said the city government cannot implement its P5 million project because the sites ideal for resettlement areas are becoming more expensive.

"We are supposed to do land banking for the housing of the informal sector. The players would claim the project is for the poor because they only sell raw lots at affordable prices. But the ones who benefit are not from Samal. So we are seriously discussing it with the Samal Island Housing Board," Gales said.

This is why the city government is investigating land speculation and the development of alleged "illegal subdivisions" on the island by big players claiming only to be marketing arms of owners.

According to Gales, about 300 hectares are already owned mostly by real estate players and overseas Filipino workers.

Igacos has a total land area of 30,000 hectares. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Clans in Maguindanao settle feud peacefully

COTABATO CITY—Traditional means of resolving conflict was proven effective in a remote village in Maguindanao with two warring clans deciding to set aside differences, live peacefully and become productive.

An engineer in charge of a government project in Carmen, North Cotabato went out of his primary job and made use of traditional means in settling a longstanding family feud that already claimed several lives from both sides.

Engineer Noldin Oyod, project manager of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project (MMIP) in Carmen, North Cotabato, settled feuding families in a farming community of Barangay Kilangan, Pagalungan, Maguindanao.

"There is no substitute for settling conflicts but peaceful means," Oyod said in a statement.

Armed warring families disputed ownership of a vast tract of land in Maguindanao already irrigated by the government.

Warring clans

The warring clans include the group of Datu Samad Idol, village chair of Gocotan, and the group of Datu Alonto Sultan. Both are claiming ownership of 200 hectares of lands in the village that have become productive due to irrigations provided by the MMIP.

After weeks of negotiations, both sides agreed to settle their differences peacefully. "I was able to convince them that after all, they are the beneficiaries of my initiatives and not me or somebody else," Oyod said.

The farmers involved in the conflict were armed or have relatives with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Moro National Liberation Front.

Oyod said both sides agreed not to carry their guns in the 200-hectare rice fields that they declared "peace zones."

The project engineer said the whole of Malmar area, comprising about 19,000 hectares, had been declared a "peace zone" by an agreement between then President Estrada through former Mindanao flagship project chief Robert Aventajado and MILF chairman Salamat Hashim.

No guns

Under the agreement entered into last month between Idol and Alonto group, armed individuals are barred from the area except for government agents who are enforcing laws and are entering the area with prior coordination with local leaders.

"The area is quiet now, they are busy farming their lands and soon to harvest crops," according to Maguindanao Rep. Guimid Matalam.

"Warring families are now living harmoniously," he added.

Matalam was among those who pushed for the resolution of the conflict using Muslim traditional and religious leaders. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Quezon board member fears spread of new disease

LUCENA CITY—A Quezon board member expressed alarm over the possible spread of the disease "Japanese viral encephalitis" in the province as he reported that there are now two confirmed cases of the dreaded disease, one of which is his own son.

Board member Hernando Avellaneda said his son, Hernando Jr., is now confined at the UST Hospital in Manila.

"He is now suffering from mental blackout and could no longer recognize anyone," Avellaneda said.

He identified the other victim as Jerome Ortega from Tagkawayan, Quezon.

He said Ortega, also confined in the same hospital, could no longer move half of his body and is almost in a coma.

Japanese encephalitis is a viral disease transmitted by mosquito bites.

It causes serious inflammation of the brain, which may lead to permanent brain damage, and has a high mortality rate. The virus is passed on by the bite of an infected mosquito that has previously sucked blood from an infected animal or person.

However, the great majority of cases only produce a mild, influenza-like illness with no effect on the brain.

Avellaneda said the two other comatose victims from Laguna and Tarlac have already been brought home, while their relatives are resigned to the fate that the sick could no longer be cured.

He called on the provincial health office to coordinate with the hospital and secure the medical records of his son and the other victims for whatever they are worth to prevent the possible spread of the disease.

"It's really alarming. A neurologist told me that there is no medicine yet for the disease unlike malaria and dengue," he said, adding that the least the provincial health workers can do is to conduct fogging operations in places known to be mosquito-infested. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DAVAO VIGILANTES

Drug suspect survives execution, tags cop

DAVAO CITY—The survival of a suspected pusher here from a vigilante-style execution might finally lead the police to unmasking the shadowy Davao Death Squad (DDS).

Two motorcycle-riding gunmen tried to kill Jolan Flores, a suspected drug pusher on Saturday, but he survived the attack.

Tagged

Flores, a resident of Bolton Isla, had tagged one of his assailants as SPO1 Abrellano Bactol Jr. of the San Pedro police station's thief and robbery section.

Police were suspected of involvement in the summary executions of suspected drug pushers here, but officials said the suspicions were unfounded.

But Flores, who had been rushed to a hospital after the attack, said he was positive about Bactol's identity.

Positive

He told a local radio station that he was riding a pedicab along Nograles Avenue in Barangay 76-A on his way home around 7 a.m. on Saturday when two men riding a Honda Dream motorcycle appeared from behind and fired at him.

Flores said it was Bactol who was driving the motorcycle.

He said he tried to run but Bactol's companion chased him and repeatedly fired at him.

Bactol could not be reached for comment but reporters learned he did not report for work on Saturday.

On Friday morning, suspected DDS hit men also shot and killed a suspected criminal.

The broad daylight execution occurred several meters away from a police outpost along Maa Crossing here.

New victim

SPO4 Dionesio Escobañez, homicide investigator of the Davao City Police Office (DCPO), identified the fatality as Vicente Antido of GSIS Village in Matina District.

Escobañez said the victim was with two unidentified women aboard an Artville Taxi when two motorcycle-riding armed men attacked him.

Taxicab driver Mario Montimar said he saw the two suspects approach his cab and shoot the victim once through the window.

Death toll

Antido's death occurred as the police in Southern Mindanao held a seminar on how to stop the illegal drug trade in the region.

More than 90 people, mostly linked to the illegal drug trade, had been killed since January.

The killings have sowed fear among drug users and pushers, especially after Mayor Rodrigo Duterte announced that they could become the next target of the DDS.

Duterte was rumored to be behind the existence of the DDS, an allegation the mayor has repeatedly denied.

The killings and Duterte's warnings have prompted suspected pushers to surrender. *Anthony Allada and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Vasectomy program funded by US lures more and more T'boli males, says doctor

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The number of South Cotabato tribesmen availing of the vasectomy method for population control is increasing.

Recently, 90 T'boli tribesmen in T'boli town underwent a no-scalpel vasectomy (NSV) under the program of the Management Sciences for Health (MSH), an organization funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Dr. Josephine Armada, T'boli municipal health officer, said this was the third time the town had availed of the MSH's free no-scalpel vasectomy (NSV).

The first was four months ago with almost the same number of beneficiaries.

During the second activity, 26 T'boli men agreed to be subject to NSV.

Armada told reporters that 150 T'boli men had earlier signified their willingness to undergo NSV. But only 90 of them managed to show up, as most of them hail from far-flung villages, some of which are accessible only by foot or by horse ride.

Those who underwent the procedure were aged 20 to 44 and had an average of eight children.

Some of them had as many as 15 children as T'boli tribesmen get married even in their early teens.

But what really complicates the increasing population of T'bolis is the T'boli's polygamous society. A male T'boli could have up to three wives.

Health officials said the increasing openness among T'boli tribesmen about the government's population program was remarkable.

T'boli Mayor Sarse Atam, himself a T'boli, was happy to see the large turnout of T'boli men participating in the program.

This, he said, is an indication of his people's awareness about the importance of family planning to improve the quality of their lives.

Most T'boli communities lead a hand-to-mouth existence, the reason they could hardly send any of their children to school. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

10 charged with killing of mayor

DAVAO CITY—The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Tuesday filed murder charges against a miner and nine others in connection with the assassination of Mayor Joel Brillantes of Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

Charged before the City Prosecutors Office here were miner Nelson Sala alias Tata, former policeman Reynaldo Cajes, Cajes' live-in partner Gina Koch, a businessman only identified as Yap, Cirilo Ingroba, and five other unidentified suspects.

Supt. Danilo Galapon, CIDG regional director, filed the case based on the affidavit of Fedelina Dejito, wife of the alleged slain gunman Anecito Dejito.

Ten other witnesses, including five policemen, also executed statements to pin down the suspects on the June 28 killing inside the Matina Gallera cockpit here.

In her affidavit, Fedelina said Ingroba, a neighbor in Barangay Tulali-an in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, went to their house on May 6, 2003 and introduced Cajes to her husband.

Fedelina said since then, the two frequently met with her husband.

She said her husband also frequently gave her money. When asked, her husband claimed the money was given by Ingroba and Cajes. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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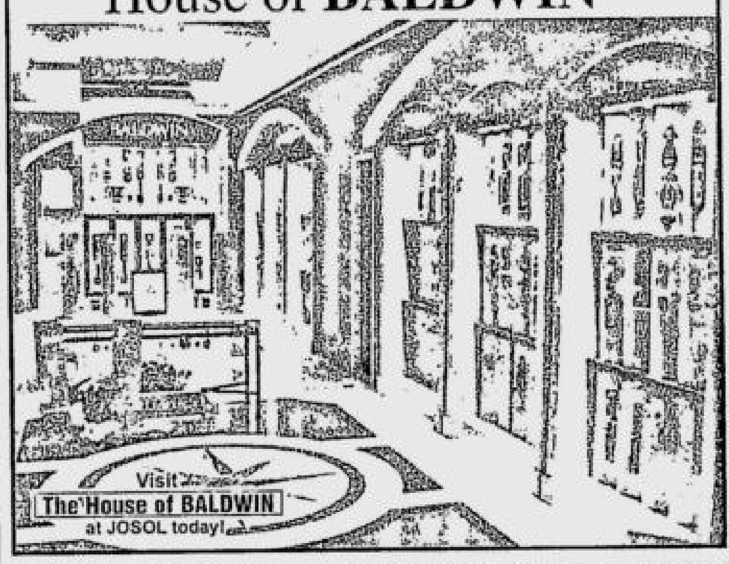

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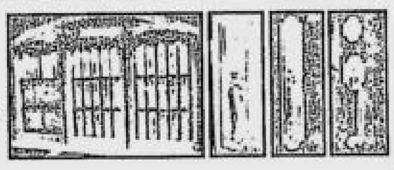

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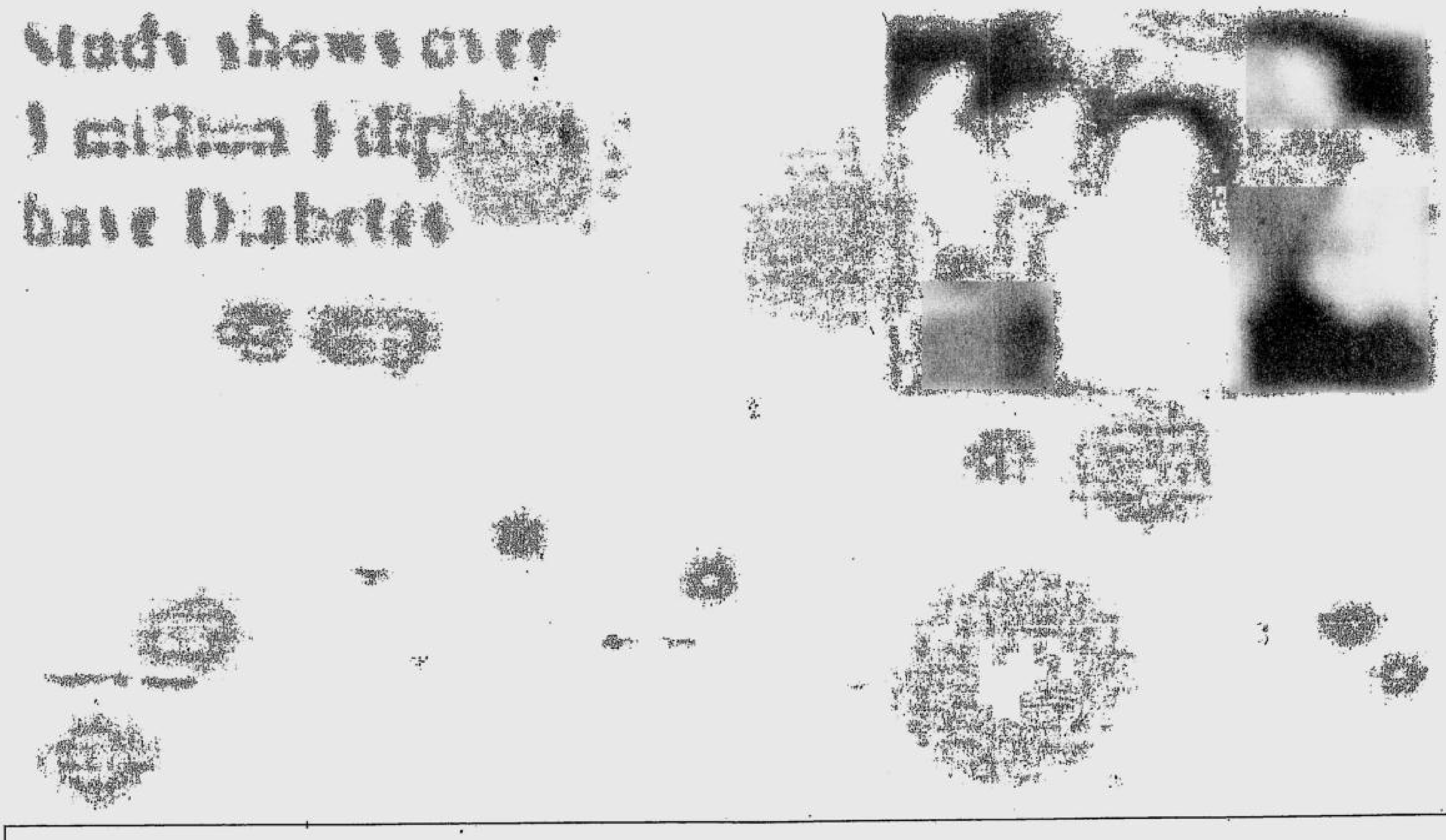

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Top Erap aide arrested

From page A1

any knowledge of the alleged coup plot.

He said, "I just arrived last Wednesday from a medical check-up in the United States," before invoking his right to remain silent.

A source in Camp Crame yesterday said Cardenas could be the "key" to exposing the former President's alleged involvement in the coup.

Citing initial reports, the source said the former Estrada official supposedly had a unit in Oakwood which the rebel soldiers used as their command center during the Makati siege.

"The identification of Cardenas would hopefully lead us to other personalities," he told the INQUIRER.

Expensive equipment

A source who had been wooed to join the mutiny said close to 500 radios were recovered by government troopers in Oakwood shortly after the rebel soldiers surrendered.

The radios, some of which were still in the original packaging, are worth from P10,000 to P12,000 each.

"So if you have close to 500 radios, that's about P5 million. And these are not AFP-issued radios," the source said.

The second proof of a well-funded move, he said, was that each rebel soldier carried a Camelback water pouch, not a combat backpack issued by the AFP. The expensive pouch is worth between P1,000 to P2,000.

A third proof, the source said: The armbands used by the rebels were of good quality, unlike the armbands used by AFP soldiers.

An officer who was in Oakwood from the first negotiation until the last said the Magdalo group was very well funded.

"I wonder where they got their funds. They had with them some 10 satellite phones, Motorola radios and some Icom base (equipment). For the Icom base alone, that's almost P30,000, but with the provisions they have, I can say it won't last three days," he told the INQUIRER.

When asked if the former President could have funded the mutiny, Golez said: "It's a very expensive undertaking. To equip about 330 soldiers, that's a very expensive proposition. A lot of money was needed for the operation."

More arrests

In a joint statement, the National Bureau Investigation and the PNP Criminal Investigation Detection Group said more arrests of members of Estrada's administration were likely under arrest powers granted through a presidential declaration of a state of rebellion.

"Other coup conspirators are believed to include former high-ranking government officials in the deposed Estrada administration," it said.

Police are trying to gather evidence against Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who has also been suspected of providing help to the mutineers, said CIDG head Eduardo Matillano.

Honasan, a former Army colonel who led several coup attempts in the 1980s, has strongly denied the accusation.

The government would throw the book at the rebel soldiers' civilian accomplices or backers—including Estrada. and Honasan, Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday.

"That is why we are investigating how the mutiny happened. What's their involvement?" Gutierrez said in a press conference yesterday.

She said civilians who found liable could be charged with rebellion which, under the Revised Penal Code, carried a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said all civilians shown to be involved in the military rebellion would be prosecuted.

"It is the height of disloyalty to the democratic system to exploit the grievances of soldiers by turning them into mutineers," Bunye said. "Let the ax fall where it may. There will be no holy cows in this investigation."

He said the President was "very determined to get at the root of the matter."

Honasan's case

Gutierrez said the police and the military were investigating Honasan because the mutineers were promoting his "National Recovery Program."

More than 50 members of the group Guardians, who are Honasan supporters, also held a rally along Ayala Avenue "in support" of the NRP during the height of the siege.

Supporters of Estrada also tried to proceed to Makati but were blocked by anti-riot policemen along Edsa.

Gutierrez said these civilians could also be charged with rebellion. She said the timing of these protests should be investigated because they happened during the mutiny.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said Honasan's "involvement is as clear as day."

He added: "We are just gathering more evidence, and we will file (rebellion) charges against Senator Honasan."

While the soldiers have some legitimate grievances relating to corruption in the military, Lina said it appeared there was a "civilian component" that helped carry out the uprising.

Lina said initial investigations revealed the rebels' plan was to encourage civilians to gather at the building where they were holed up in hopes of causing a larger uprising to force President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation.

"These 296 soldiers did not act by themselves alone," Lina said. "There is a political angle here because they were demanding the resignation of President Gloria Arroyo. What can be more political than that?"

A ranking Palace official pointed to one incident. "What's very startling was right after they took over Glorietta and Oakwood, in just a few hours, hundreds of people came marching, carrying NRP streamers," he said.

"In other words, this is all prepared. This is not a spontaneous gathering of people, but something that was apparently well prepared."

The official said Ms Macapagal learned that a group of Scout Rangers would be leaving Iloilo from Bro. Eddie Villanueva, leader of the religious movement Jesus Is Lord.

He said the night before the Scout Rangers were to depart from Iloilo, one of them who happened to be a JIL member texted an aunt to tell her that they were going to Manila for the coup.

The aunt informed Villanueva and the JIL leader told Ms Macapagal. *With reports from AP, AFP, Reuters; Juliet Javellana, Christian Esguerra; Dennis Jay C. Santos, Joselle R. Badilla, Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MUTINY leader Antonio Trillanes escorts negotiators Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Tito Sotto and Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan prior to their surrender at the Makati Commerical Center. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Gringo a no-show at Congress reopening

By Christine O. Avendano

A DAY after he was tagged a mastermind of the failed Sunday mutiny, opposition Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan skipped the reopening of Congress yesterday to spend time with his "distraught" family.

Except for Honasan and Sen. Ralph Recto, all senators attended yesterday's Senate session.

Senate President Franklin Drilon told his colleagues that Honasan had sent his apologies to the chamber because he could not attend, and that he would deliver a privilege speech today.

Drilon made the announcement after opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., inquired about Honasan's absence.

"We want to know what happened to Gringo," said Pimentel, who stood to make the parliamentary inquiry, as he stated that he heard that there might be a warrant of arrest to be issued against the senator.

Pimentel said the senators want to know the "real situation" as they don't want Honasan to "be unduly prevented from exercising his duty" in the Senate.

In a press briefing afterward, Drilon told reporters that he talked with Honasan yesterday morning and that he was with his family "who, (Honasan) said, is distraught over what has happened."

"We have agreed that (today), he (Honasan) would stand on a question of personal privilege," the Senate President said.

Asked whether Honasan can be arrested if government has enough evidence against him, Drilon gave a very careful response.

"Theoretically, if charges are filed, and I emphasize on a theoretical basis, only for purposes of giving you a background of the Constitution ---under the Constitution the exemption against arrest while a legislator is attending session would only apply to cases where the penalty imposed is not more than six years," he said.

Drilon also said that the Senate was in favor of lifting the state of rebellion that the government imposed Sunday because "life has returned to normalcy."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson warned the government against arresting Honasan without an arrest warrant, a move that he said the Macapagal administration had carried out against him, Honasan and ex-senator Juan Ponce Enrile, when they were accused of being behind the May 1, 2001 siege of Malacañang.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said: 'I believe in Greg and he would know how to defend himself."

Who's Eki? He can't harm a fly, says pal

From page A1

person (*salbahe*)," the official, who had tangled with Cardenas before, said.

The official recalled another case of Palace infighting: it was Cardenas, the source said, who orchestrated the ouster of PMS chief Leny de Jesus—Estrada's famous "dragon lady."

Why did Cardenas do it? "Because he wanted her post from Day One," the official said.

At the height of the De Jesus-Cardenas feud, the source said, reporters received an unusual Christmas card, featuring De Jesus and her partner Mon Abad; the ex-official said the dirty trick was care of Cardenas.

Vanity plate

Cardenas also got the ire of his Malacañang colleagues when he insisted on using the special Plate No. 6—assigned only to Cabinet secretaries—when he was senior deputy executive secretary.

Cardenas served the Estrada administration as senior deputy executive secretary and later as PMS chief after De Jesus quit the post in March 2000. He is at present serving as the deposed President's informal chief of staff.

But Cardenas worked in Malacañang even before Estrada's time.

Cardenas, 61 and single, reportedly lives with his mother, in Dasmariñas Village in Makati City. He is one of Estrada's frequent guests at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

"Whenever he comes (to VMMC), he always gets a one-on-one with (Estrada)," a source said.

"He's always been caring to the (former) President. He is very loyal to him and he will not do anything violent," another source said.

FILE photo of former President Estrada swearing in Ramon "Eki" Cardenas as Senior Deputy Executive Secretary and concurrent head of the Presidential Management Staff taken on May 30, 2000.

Danding too

Cardenas served as executive officer of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco from 1992 to 1998. Sources said it was his friend San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, then Estrada's executive secretary, and Cojuangco who brought him on board the Estrada Cabinet.

During Estrada's time, Cardenas served concurrently as head of the Manila Economic Cooperation Office, the country's de facto embassy in Taiwan. He also chaired the Philippine Coordinating Committee in the Asian Development Bank and was ex-officio director of the Philippine National railways.

He first joined government service in 1963 as an economist at the Program Implementing Agency and became its chief in 1966.

He became director of the Presidential Economic Staff and administrative officer of the National Computer Center in 1970 and 1971 respectively.

He was one of the founders of the Development Management Staff, now the PMS, where he became director in 1972.

He rose to become assistant executive secretary for programs and projects at the Office of the President from 1972 to 1975. In that period, he served as chair of the Philippine Consultative Body on Domestic Development Service, director of the Marawi resort Hotel Co., presidential coordinator for the Special Program of Assistance for Returned Evacuees, director of the Mindanao Development Authority, board member of the National Grains Authority and vice chair of the Philippine Ports Authority.

Cardenas also held various positions in the private sector, including president of Philippine Fuji Xerox Corp. He was also president of the Ateneo Alumni Association and trustee of the Ateneo Scholarship Foundation.

Cardenas graduated cum laude from the Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in economics.

He obtained a master of arts, major in economic planning and development and minor in Southeast Asian studies, from Cornell University in New York.

Erap denies role in Makati mutiny . . .

From page A1

came back from a medical check-up in the US. "It's very clear that (the alleged evidence) was planted," he said.'

Later in the day, Estrada issued a strongly worded statement, warning of further "disunity" arising from the government's efforts to blame him and the opposition for the failed military action.

"Such machinations, far from resolving the series of crisis now gripping our nation, could only make matters worse," he said in a statement issued by the Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

Estrada said he found it "disgusting that some quarters in government are already scheming to blame this incident on the opposition."

"This is another cheap and crude attempt by the government to gloss over and bury the legitimate demands of our young officers by twisting the issue, by blaming the whole affair on my camp," he said.

Estrada said the raids on the Enriquez house in Mandaluyong City and the Cardenas house in Makati City were "staged-managed by the government',' and accused Interior Secretary Joey Lina and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco of being behind it.

"Neither me (*sic*) nor my supporters have a role in this whole thing and personally, I have nothing to gain from this incident. All this so-called evidence are planted by government agents," he said.

Staging area?

Estrada admitted that the three-story house in Mandaluyong City belonged to Enriquez.

"Yes, it's true ... But for one year now, it has not been occupied because the city government of Mandaluyong refuses to issue an electrical permit to light the place up," he said in Filipino.

Having failed to get anyone to rent the house at 461 J. Vargas St., Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, he said Laarni caused the transfer of the place in the name of Laarni's friend, a certain Midel.

Estrada said Laarni resorted to this scheme because the city government may finally issue an electrical permit for a different owner.

"For two years now, it has been an abandoned place. Now suddenly, they saw (mutinous soldiers there). I don't know if they were planted or not," he said.

He said even Laarni had no knowledge that some people had been occupying the place.

"I pity my children (by Laarni). It pains them to see their mother being linked to the coup," he said. "She can't do anything but cry."

Cardenas link?

Estrada also lamented that Cardenas, once his Presidential Management Staff chief, was linked to the coup.

"He called to complain that law enforcers suddenly barged into his house. He was crying, wondering why he is now being linked to the coup," he said.

According to him, Cardenas arrived in the country only three days ago. He said he was worried about Cardenas, who has a heart problem.

"It looks like they are setting me up," Estrada said, adding that the government could be doing this because it had a "weak" case against him in the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada is facing plunder charges before the anti-graft court, but his lawyers are yet to produce witnesses to testify in his favor. Yesterday, they again succeeded in moving the date to present evidence from July 28 to Aug. 25.

Transfer defended

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio defended the emergency transfer of Estrada from VMMC to Camp Aguinaldo on Sunday. *(See related story in Metro, Page A17)*

"There were reports of a plan to rescue Estrada and bring him to Oakwood and install him there," Villa-Ignacio told the Sandiganbayan yesterday.

Villa-Ignacio said that Chief Supt. Prospero Noble Jr., head of the Police Security Protection Office, should not be condemned but rather commended for transferring Estrada quickly to safer ground.

Villa-Ignacio was reacting to a move by Estrada de officio counsel Manuel Pamaran to cite Noble and other officials for "indirect contempt" for transferring Estrada from a hospital to a military establishment.

Pamaran said the move constituted a direct interference in the operations of the courts, which has "exclusive jurisdiction" over its cases.

But Associate Justice Edilberto Sandoval cut in while Pamaran was arguing, saying that Noble and his men may have had an "insuperable cause" for transferring Estrada at the height of the failed coup.

He said there were times that people could "interpret" the law, such as when the police thought Estrada's life was in danger.

Estrada complained that after policemen "forcibly" brought him to Camp Aguinaldo on Sunday, some men went over his belongings in his detention suite at the VMMC.

"What right does this government have in going over my personal belongings without my knowledge and consent?" he said, noting that the search was done without a search warrant. *With reports from Juliet Javellana*

REBELLION AFTERMATH

DOJ justifies transfer, says Erap no ordinary man

By Philip Tubeza and Margaux Ortiz

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday defended the national police's decision to transfer former President Joseph Estrada to Camp Aguinaldo at the height of Sunday's mutiny.

DOJ Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said contingencies attending the weekend rebellion necessitated Estrada's transfer from the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center to Camp Aguinaldo, even without Sandiganbayan approval.

"The former President is not an ordinary man," Gutierrez said. "Under the situation, it was justified."

She said that the police and the military are allowed to take the necessary action to "protect duly constituted authority and quell the rebellion."

Gutierrez said this was especially true after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of rebellion on Sunday.

That morning, Estrada was taken to Camp Aguinaldo under heavy military guard.

Yesterday, Estrada asked a court to cite Chief Supt. Prospero Noble for contempt for ordering his transfer at the height of the mutiny.

Estrada lawyer Manuel Pamaran said the detained leader had nothing to do with the mutiny, stressing the police failed to secure a court order to move him.

"The court should make (Noble) appear and explain why it did happen," Pamaran said. "Approval of the court cannot be dispensed with. Only the court has the power to order his transfer of confinement."

But police officials said there were credible intelligence reports that a group had plotted to rescue the former president at the height of the mutiny.

The weekend rebellion came at a high price, and small businessmen were left to foot the bill.

Kiosk owners in Makati's Glorietta 4 mall—where mutineers had holed up over the weekend—have complained of missing items when they returned for business.

Makati officer SPO4 Jun Asinas said unidentified men—whom he suspected to have been renegade soldiers—took a variety of food items like waffles, rice cakes, bread and Indonesian delicacies.

"They even cooked rice in one booth selling rice mix," Asinas said.

The lawman said that some of the kiosk owners have asked the police to forego investigation because they felt sorry for the "hungry rebel soldiers." *with a report from AFP*

Militants lob 'Sex Bomb' ditty at Sona

By Norman Bordadora and Tina Santos

MILITANT groups yesterday followed up the weekend rebellion by coming out with a "bomb" of its own.

As President Macapagal-Arroyo was delivering her State of the Nation address, members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan yesterday sang and danced the "Spageti Song," which the Sex Bomb Dancers have made popular.

The militants changed the lyrics of the pop ditty based on a children's game to criticize the government.

The militants described the cost of electricity as "*pataas ng pataas* (continuously going up)," and minimum wage as "*pababa ng pababa* (continuously going down)."

The song-and-dance marked the highlight of Bayan's protest action against the Macapagal administration, which had just survived a rebellion mounted by disgruntled young military officers.

"The real state of the nation today is the growing isolation of Mrs. Arroyo and Defense Secretary Reyes from the people who are revolted by bad economics, worsening corruption and all-out war that victimizes civilians and disgusts even government troops," said Bayan secretary-general Teddy Casiño.

The cultural arm of the women's group Gabriela wrote the new lyrics and performed the highly danceable protest song on a makeshift stage in front of the Ever-Gotesco mall on Commonwealth Avenue, several kilometers away from the House of Representatives complex.

"Mrs. Arroyo is seriously mistaken if she views her hollow victory over her own troops as a preview of a highly improbable triumph in 2004," Casiño said.

"The putsch may be over, but we are still mired in the highest unemployment rate in Asia, one of the highest electric rates in the region, growing inflation and plummeting peso," he added.

The militants yesterday also decried the measly P280 daily minimum wage, which is half the daily cost of living, pegged at P558.

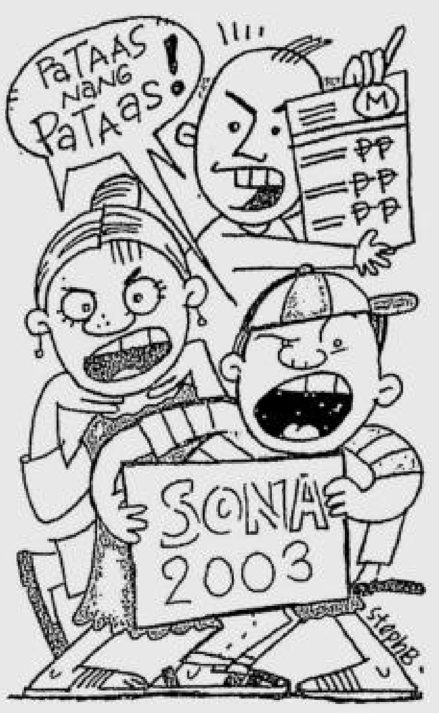
Squads of anti-riot policemen stopped the militants as they approached the Sandiganbayan building and confined the protesters on the south-bound lane of Commonwealth Avenue.

Police placed the total number of protesters at 35,000.

Thousands of supporters of Ms Macapagal also converged near the Commission on Audit and held their own programs.

National Capital Region Office (NCRPO) chief deputy director General Reynaldo Velasco said the protest actions were generally peaceful.

Velasco said the militants did not attempt to break through the barricades set up by Civil Disturbance Management units on Commonwealth Avenue, Batasan Road, and the San Mateo Bridge.



She wanted to talk to Gloria

By Tarra Quismundo

HAD ROSEMARY Antonio known that President Macapagal-Arroyo would be at the Batasang Pambansa yesterday, she would have walked six hours from her home in Pandacan, Manila, to see her.

But Rosemary had no intention of listening to the President's speech. She would have just asked P80 from Macapagal-Arroyo so that her son Jomari would not be thrown out of school.

"My son was kicked out of school because we could not pay for the ID, and because we could not give a copy of his birth certificate," Rosemary said in Filipino.

They went to the Manila City Hall yesterday and were required to pay the standard fee of P80 to get a copy of Jomari's birth certificate.

But Rosemary, a laundrywoman who makes P150 a week and P5 a day as cleaning lady in a neighbor's house, could not afford the fee.

Nine-year old Jomari, who dreams of becoming a doctor, is the only one among Rosemary's seven sons who was able to attend school.

"*Lagi akong* very good," Jomari said.

The boy went to school even though he had no money for food.

"He would sit in one corner and cry, while his other classmates take their snack," Rosemary said.

Chinese-Filipino businessman killed in QC robbery

By Tina Santos

A CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman yesterday was shot and killed in what appeared to be a robbery in front of his appliance store in Quezon City.

One of the motorcycle-riding robbers was also wounded after he was shot by an armored van security guard who witnessed the incident, police said.

Police identified Jimmy Go Lu through the victim's identification cards found in his car. Lu, said to be the owner of Welstar General Merchandise store on Roosevelt Avenue, Muñoz, Quezon City, died while undergoing treatment at the St. Agnes Hospital, police said.

According to Insp. Rudy Jaraza of the Central Police District, Lu was about to park his Toyota Corolla (WFB 681) in front of his store at around noon yesterday when two armed men on board a motorcycle, blocked his car and announced a robbery.

But the victim reportedly resisted, prompting one of the robbers to shoot Lu several times in the chest. The suspects then fled with the loot, police said.

But an unidentified security guard of an armored van saw the shooting and chased the suspects. The guard fired his gun and hit one of the robbers in the back, police said.

According to an unconfirmed report reaching the police office, a man matching the description of one of the suspects was taken to an undisclosed hospital in Valenzuela for a gunshot wound in the back. The man reportedly died while undergoing treatment.

Oakwood mutineers must be punished

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF THOSE mutineers are not punished, there will be more coup attempts. There won't be an end to coup-coup-roo-coup-coup. *Walang katapusan ang kagaguhan.*

Any group of military officers or even enlisted men can easily seize a building in the heart of the country's financial district and announce to the whole world they want a change of leadership in the Armed Forces or the national government.

It will be one coup attempt after another, forever and ever.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo should not be influenced by the intercession of the mutineers' "mistahs" (classmates at the Philippine Military Academy) and high-ranking military officers.

If she wants to prevent future mutinies in the military and the police, she should harden her heart.

One of the things that the lobbyists for those Sunday adventurers would tell the President is that there was an act of gallantry in their terrorist act.

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Rosios apparently refused to obey Cortez's orders to snatch the necklaces of passersby. *Tarra Quismundo*

Metro cops…

From page A18

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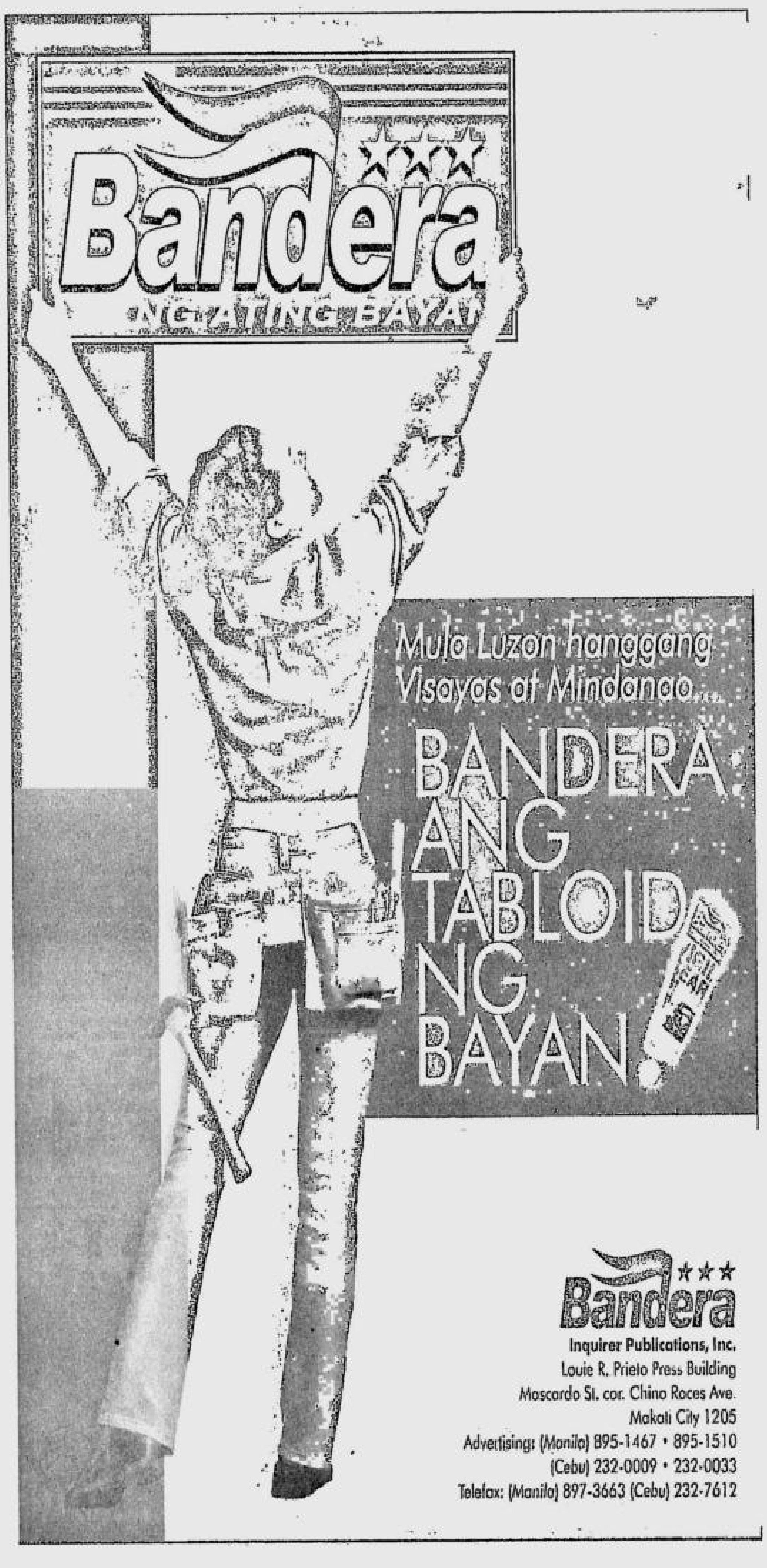

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REBELLION AFTERMATH

DOJ justifies transfer, says Erap no ordinary man

By Philip Tubeza and Margaux Ortiz

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice yesterday defended the national police's decision to transfer former President Joseph Estrada to Camp Aguinaldo at the height of Sunday's mutiny.

DOJ Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said contingencies attending the weekend rebellion necessitated Estrada's transfer from the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center to Camp Aguinaldo, even without Sandiganbayan approval.

"The former President is not an ordinary man," Gutierrez said. "Under the situation, it was justified."

She said that the police and the military are allowed to take the necessary action to "protect duly constituted authority and quell the rebellion."

Gutierrez said this was especially true after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of rebellion on Sunday.

That morning, Estrada was taken to Camp Aguinaldo under heavy military guard.

Yesterday, Estrada asked a court to cite Chief Supt. Prospero Noble for contempt for ordering his transfer at the height of the mutiny.

Estrada lawyer Manuel Pamaran said the detained leader had nothing to do with the mutiny, stressing the police failed to secure a court order to move him.

"The court should make (Noble) appear and explain why it did happen," Pamaran said. "Approval of the court cannot be dispensed with. Only the court has the power to order his transfer of confinement."

But police officials said there were credible intelligence reports that a group had plotted to rescue the former president at the height of the mutiny.

The weekend rebellion came at a high price, and small businessmen were left to foot the bill.

Kiosk owners in Makati's Glorietta 4 mall—where mutineers had holed up over the weekend—have complained of missing items when they returned for business.

Makati officer SPO4 Jun Asinas said unidentified men—whom he suspected to have been renegade soldiers—took a variety of food items like waffles, rice cakes, bread and Indonesian delicacies.

"They even cooked rice in one booth selling rice mix," Asinas said.

The lawman said that some of the kiosk owners have asked the police to forego investigation because they felt sorry for the "hungry rebel soldiers." *with a report from AFP*

Militants lob 'Sex Bomb' ditty at Sona

By Norman Bordadora and Tina Santos

MILITANT groups yesterday followed up the weekend rebellion by coming out with a "bomb" of its own.

As President Macapagal-Arroyo was delivering her State of the Nation address, members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan yesterday sang and danced the "Spageti Song," which the Sex Bomb Dancers have made popular.

The militants changed the lyrics of the pop ditty based on a children's game to criticize the government.

The militants described the cost of electricity as "*pataas ng pataas* (continuously going up)," and minimum wage as "*pababa ng pababa* (continuously going down)."

The song-and-dance marked the highlight of Bayan's protest action against the Macapagal administration, which had just survived a rebellion mounted by disgruntled young military officers.

"The real state of the nation today is the growing isolation of Mrs. Arroyo and Defense Secretary Reyes from the people who are revolted by bad economics, worsening corruption and all-out war that victimizes civilians and disgusts even government troops," said Bayan secretary-general Teddy Casiño.

The cultural arm of the women's group Gabriela wrote the new lyrics and performed the highly danceable protest song on a makeshift stage in front of the Ever-Gotesco mall on Commonwealth Avenue, several kilometers away from the House of Representatives complex.

"Mrs. Arroyo is seriously mistaken if she views her hollow victory over her own troops as a preview of a highly improbable triumph in 2004," Casiño said.

"The putsch may be over, but we are still mired in the highest unemployment rate in Asia, one of the highest electric rates in the region, growing inflation and plummeting peso," he added.

The militants yesterday also decried the measly P280 daily minimum wage, which is half the daily cost of living, pegged at P558.

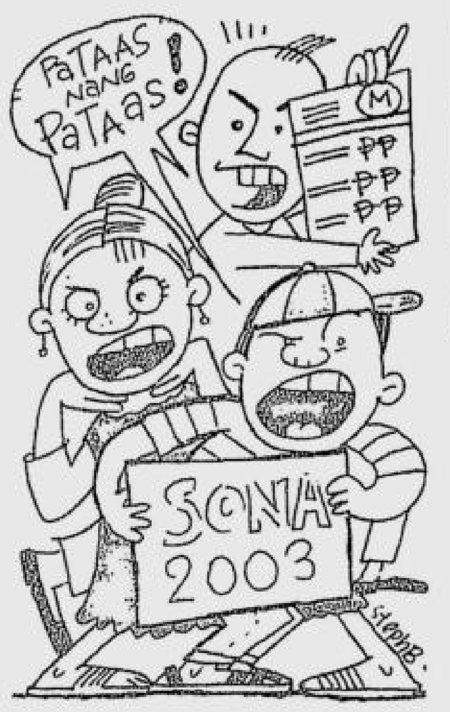
Squads of anti-riot policemen stopped the militants as they approached the Sandiganbayan building and confined the protesters on the south-bound lane of Commonwealth Avenue.

Police placed the total number of protesters at 35,000.

Thousands of supporters of Ms Macapagal also converged near the Commission on Audit and held their own programs.

National Capital Region Office (NCRPO) chief deputy director General Reynaldo Velasco said the protest actions were generally peaceful.

Velasco said the militants did not attempt to break through the barricades set up by Civil Disturbance Management units on Commonwealth Avenue, Batasan Road, and the San Mateo Bridge.



She wanted to talk to Gloria

By Tarra Quismundo

HAD ROSEMARY Antonio known that President Macapagal-Arroyo would be at the Batasang Pambansa yesterday, she would have walked six hours from her home in Pandacan, Manila, to see her.

But Rosemary had no intention of listening to the President's speech. She would have just asked P80 from Macapagal-Arroyo so that her son Jomari would not be thrown out of school.

"My son was kicked out of school because we could not pay for the ID, and because we could not give a copy of his birth certificate," Rosemary said in Filipino.

They went to the Manila City Hall yesterday and were required to pay the standard fee of P80 to get a copy of Jomari's birth certificate.

But Rosemary, a laundrywoman who makes P150 a week and P5 a day as cleaning lady in a neighbor's house, could not afford the fee.

Nine-year old Jomari, who dreams of becoming a doctor, is the only one among Rosemary's seven sons who was able to attend school.

"*Lagi akong* very good." Jomari said.

The boy went to school even though he had no money for food.

"He would sit in one corner and cry, while his other classmates take their snack," Rosemary said.

Chinese-Filipino businessman killed in QC robbery

By Tina Santos

A CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman yesterday was shot and killed in what appeared to be a robbery in front of his appliance store in Quezon City.

One of the motorcycle-riding robbers was also wounded after he was shot by an armored van security guard who witnessed the incident, police said.

Police identified Jimmy Go Lu through the victim's identification cards found in his car. Lu, said to be the owner of Welstar General Merchandise store on Roosevelt Avenue, Muñoz, Quezon City, died while undergoing treatment at the St. Agnes Hospital, police said.

According to Insp. Rudy Jaraza of the Central Police District, Lu was about to park his Toyota Corolla (WFB 681) in front of his store at around noon yesterday when two armed men on board a motorcycle, blocked his car and announced a robbery.

But the victim reportedly resisted, prompting one of the robbers to shoot Lu several times in the chest. The suspects then fled with the loot, police said.

But an unidentified security guard of an armored van saw the shooting and chased the suspects. The guard fired his gun and hit one of the robbers in the back, police said.

According to an unconfirmed report reaching the police office, a man matching the description of one of the suspects was taken to an undisclosed hospital in Valenzuela for a gunshot wound in the back. The man reportedly died while undergoing treatment.

Oakwood mutineers must be punished

On Target

Ramon Tulfo

IF THOSE mutineers are not punished, there will be more coup attempts. There won't be an end to coup-coup-roo-coup-coup. *Walang katapusan ang kagaguhan.*

Any group of military officers or even enlisted men can easily seize a building in the heart of the country's financial district and announce to the whole world they want a change of leadership in the Armed Forces or the national government.

It will be one coup attempt after another, forever and ever.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo should not be influenced by the intercession of the mutineers' "mistahs" (classmates at the Philippine Military Academy) and high-ranking military officers.

If she wants to prevent future mutinies in the military and the police, she should harden her heart.

One of the things that the lobbyists for those Sunday adventurers would tell the President is that there was an act of gallantry in their terrorist act.

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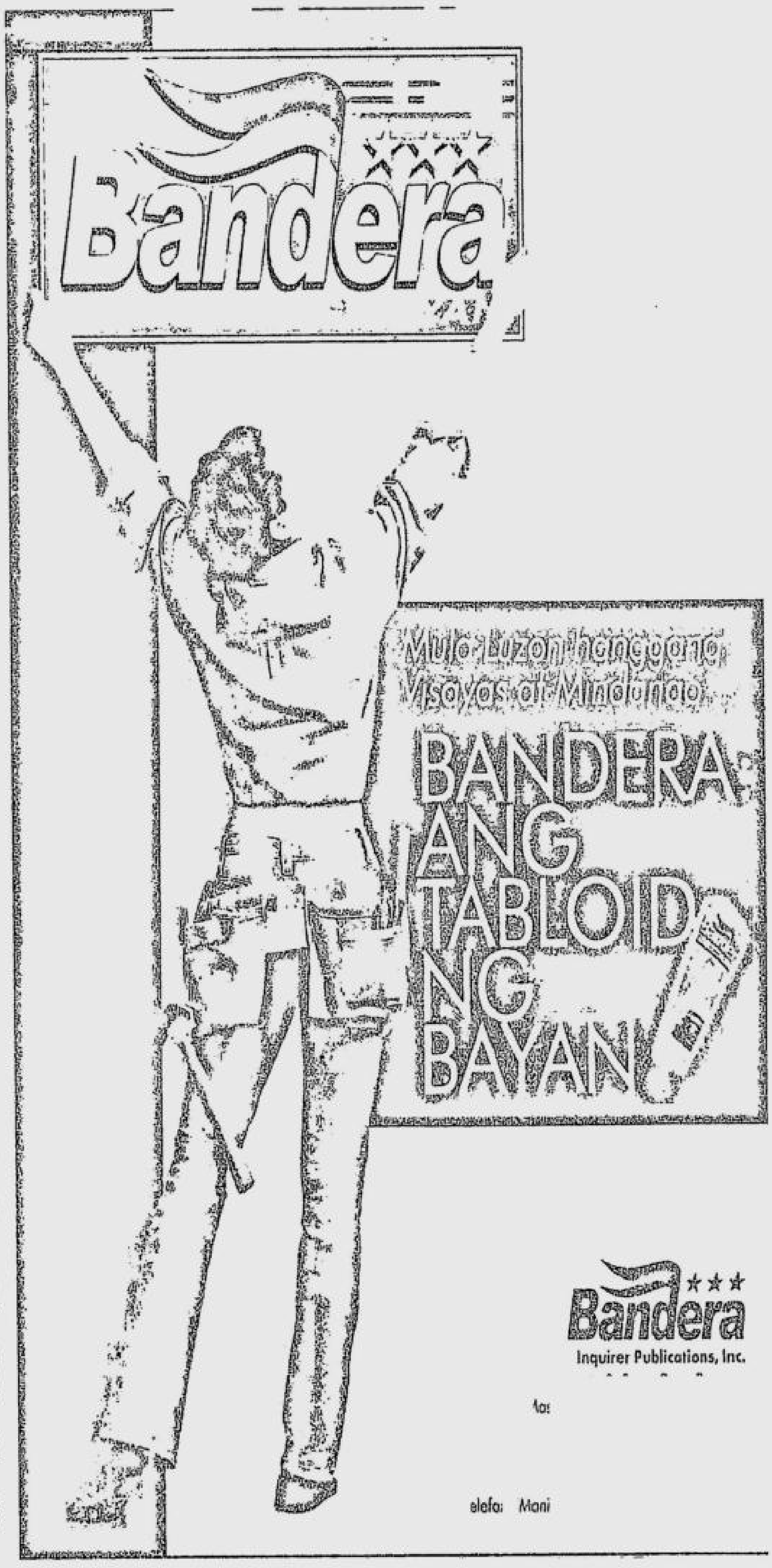
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METRO

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Metro cops turned to 'zombies'

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

TWO successive major events—Sunday's mutiny in Makati City and President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) yesterday—left policemen in Metro Manila looking like zombies.

Most of the policemen complained yesterday of having slept for only two hours since the police force was put on alert beginning Saturday evening, when news of a mutiny staged by junior military officers broke out.

More than 5,000 policemen, some already weak and groggy after more than 24 hours of moni-

METRO/A17

RP 'exporting' drugs as tea

LAWMEN stand guard outside the townhouse in Parañaque City where P1 billion worth of illegal drugs were seized. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Parañaque 'packaging-center' raided

By Alcuin Papa and Christian Esguerra

DON'T be surprised if you buy tea abroad and it gives you a different punch.

Parañaque City police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles told the INQUIRER yesterday that shabu was already being manufactured in the country and packaged as tea for "export" to drug markets in other countries.

Estilles made the revelation after elements of the Parañaque police Anti-Drug Task Force, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the Southern Police District, and the Criminal Investigation Division raided a townhouse in Parañaque City allegedly used as a "packaging center" for illegal drugs.

The police raided B-105 Bayview Homes, Marina Bay Subdivision in Barangay Tambo at 11 a.m. armed with a search warrant issued by Parañaque City Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Jansen Rodriguez of Branch 78.

The townhouse was reportedly owned by Jackson Dy, 41, Wang Li Na, 38, and Li Tian Wah, 27, who were earlier arrested for allegedly operating a shabu factory in Tanza, Cavite.

Police seized from the townhouse 400 kilos of shabu and 1.2 tons of ephedrine, a chemical used to produce shabu, all worth at least P1 billion.

"The shabu we found was ready for export outside the Philippines. It might even reach the US," Estilles said.

He explained that the drugs were produced in the Tanza laboratory which was raided last Friday and brought to the Marina house where it was packaged.

Estilles said that much of the shabu had already been packed in bags with Chinese characters and the words "Hao Shan" tea.

An investigator told the INQUIRER that the townhouse was first rented by Wang three months ago, then bought for P7 million.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said that with the rate the police were raiding shabu factories Metro Manila would be drug free by the end of the year.

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   - Marco Hotel** (Cagayan de Oro)
   - Westin Philippine Plaza (CCP Complex)
   - Evercrest Golf and Country Club (Batulao)
   - Waterfront Cebu City (Cebu City)
   - Hotel del Rio** (Iloilo City)
   - The Marco Polo (Davao)
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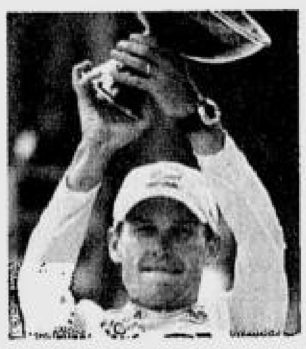
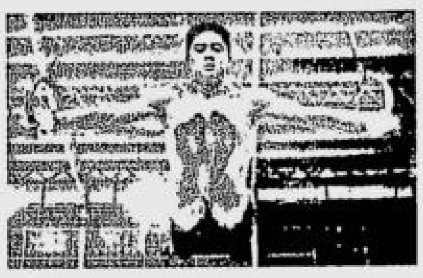


■ Armstrong: I'll be back for No. 6 /A20



■ Growing Asian trackfest roster /A21

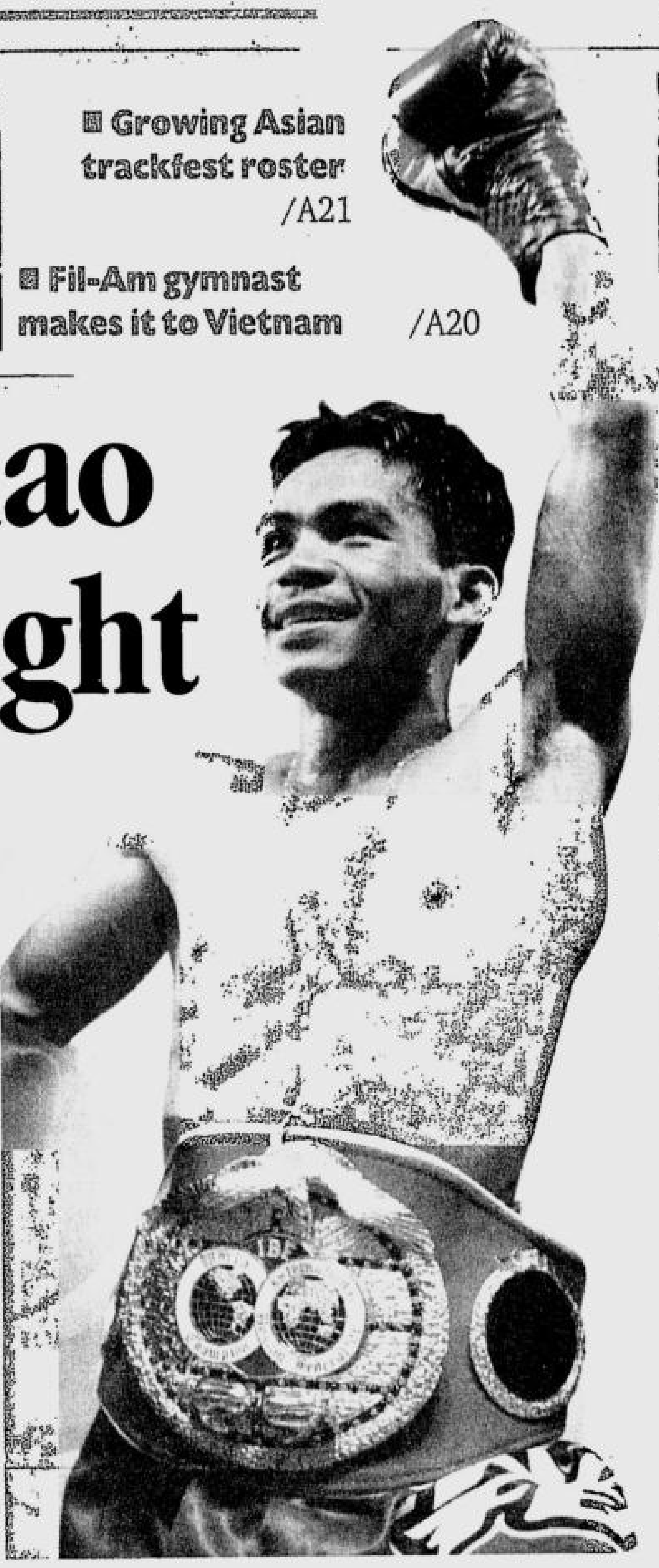
■ Fil-Am gymnast makes it to Vietnam /A20

■ James shines vs NBA vets /A21

'Super' Pacquiao saves a gala night

Champ wants Barrera next

By Recah Trinidad



LORD OF THE RING: Pacquiao celebrates beating Mexican challenger Emmanuel Lucero via a third round TKO in their IBF title bout Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

LOS ANGELES, California—The big Mexican crowd did not like Manny Pacquiao. They hooted when he entered the ring but, in the end, the partisans inside the hallowed auditorium had to grudgingly accept that it was the Filipino world champ who provided the drama that perked up the Saturday night boxing gala at the Grand Olympic.

In fact, not a few Mexicans who had rooted for challenger Emmanuel Lucero, whom Pacquiao vanquished with a crackling left to the jaw in the third round, conceded that it was Pacquiao who saved the promotion.

Yes, Pacquiao. Not Fernando Vargas, the LA ring hero who displayed more rust than class in scoring a loose, groping sixth round TKO over lanky, powerless Fitz Vanderpool, the WBC No. 1 contender at 154 pounds.

Of course, nobody here would dare announce the truth that Pacquiao had provided the emotional high for a night that was rich in fireworks and jewelled people but lacking in substance.

Not even Michael Buffer, the handsome baritone renowned for announcing the fighters' credentials before telling everybody to "get ready to rumble."

> 'Manny Pacquiao? He's super, he's a superstar!'

"Manny Pacquiao? He's super, he's a superstar!," Buffer exclaimed when this reporter met him as he stepped out of a Main Events booth en route to working the day's Vargas-Vanderpool mainer.

Pacquiao had just disposed of Lucero and the crowd, still tipsy with excitement, had been hoping that Vargas, coming back from a nine-month ban for steroid use, could aptly and dramatically punctuate the event.

Sorry. Vargas would turn out to be a super letdown.

The comebacking fighter, the main reason for a sell-out at the Grand Olympic Saturday, was often loose, tentative. On the whole, he was not even half of the tough, hard-hitting warrior whom fans had admired for his ferocity.

"I'm rusty, I'm not where I'm supposed to be, on a scale of 1 to 10, I would give myself a 3," Vargas confessed to a Los Angeles Times reporter later.

He said he would need at least two more matches, against lesser opponents, before he could go for a rematch against Oscar dela Hoya.

As for Pacquiao, he has been insisting he would like an immediate meeting with world featherweight ruler Marco Antonio Barrera.

Buffer himself assured the INQUIRER that a Pacquiao-Barrera duel should be a great fight.

But, even as the future indeed looks exciting for Pacquiao, the Filipino champ may have to face opponents less worthy than Barrera before he could shoot for the stars.

Definitely, Pacquiao has made waves in the American prizefight market after his latest colorful knockout feat which was beamed slightly delayed all over the United States by HBO.

"He's my new man, great," said Mario Avila, a Mexican office employee and former fan of Vargas. Upon learning that the INQUIRER reporter is from Manila and also a backer of Pacquiao, Avila requested for his special laminated pass to the boxing bout.

Yesterday at the Naga Pilipino store in Rowland Heights, Arthur Cabadan, who tends the meat section, said they were very proud of Pacquiao for having shown the Mexicans in their neighborhood that the Filipino champ was a bigger puncher than Vargas.

"*Kaya naming magyabang, kasi magaling talaga siya* (We can afford to brag because Pacquiao is really great)," he said.

Meanwhile, reports filtering out of Pacquiao's temporary quarters at the Vagabond Inn in Hollywood said his handlers were busy meeting negotiators who want to corner the champ's next fight, possibly a mandatory defense against Jose Luis Valbuena.

Pacquiao, scheduled to leave for Manila Tuesday, said he would rest for two weeks before going back to training.

His trainer, Freddie Roach, loved to announce to all those who patronize his Wild Card Gym in Hollywood that nobody works harder than Manny Pacquiao.

With newfound fans like Mike Buffer and Silvester Stallone, who rooted for him at ringside Saturday, Manny Pacquiao, superstar, can afford to take it easy now.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8:30 a.m. (r-12:30 p.m.) and 7 p.m.; ESPN—Django Bustamante takes on Ralf Souquet and Steve Knight, respectively.

BASKETBALL: Kings vs Mavs, Game 4, 2002 Western Semifinals; 8 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports—See Sacramento and Dallas engage in another high-scoring affair in the West.

Lakers vs Spurs, Game 4, 2002 Western Semifinals; 11 a.m. (r-10 p.m.)—Los Angeles goes for the sweep against San Antonio in this semis match-up over a year ago.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Foster's British Grand Prix; 9 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Catch highlights of the latest race in the F1 circuit.

GOLF: Canadian Women's Open; 10 a.m.; ESPN—Find out who makes the cut as this LPGA event reaches the second round.

British Open 2003; 9:30 p.m. (r); ESPN—Rewind and witness the suspense and drama from Kent, England.

TENNIS: RCA Championships; 12:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Take a look back at the semifinals of this tournament in Indianapolis.

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Nothing about sports in GMA's list of pledges

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BUHAIN: Not at all suprised.

ASIDE from a one-liner about world champion Manny Pacquiao, President Macapagal-Arroyo made no mention of Philippine sports during her State of the Nation Address yesterday at the joint congress opening.

"Like Manny Pacquiao, given a chance to win, he will go for it," said Ms Arroyo in the 35th minute of her 45-minute speech. Unfortunately, that was all there is to it.

But that's okay with Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, who attended the momentous event, ardently hoping to at least catch the Chief Executive mention anything about sports, particularly the country's hosting of the Southeast Asian Games in 2005.

Sadly enough, RP sports was totally eclipsed by big-time issues like Sunday's coup attempt, Al-Ghozi's daring escape, the quest for a strong republic, peace talks, illegal drugs and others.

Buhain said he had read in advance the topics the President was to discuss in her Sona and that he wasn't surprised that it didn't include the country's sports development program.

After all, Buhain noted, the President also didn't mention RP sports during her last Sona.

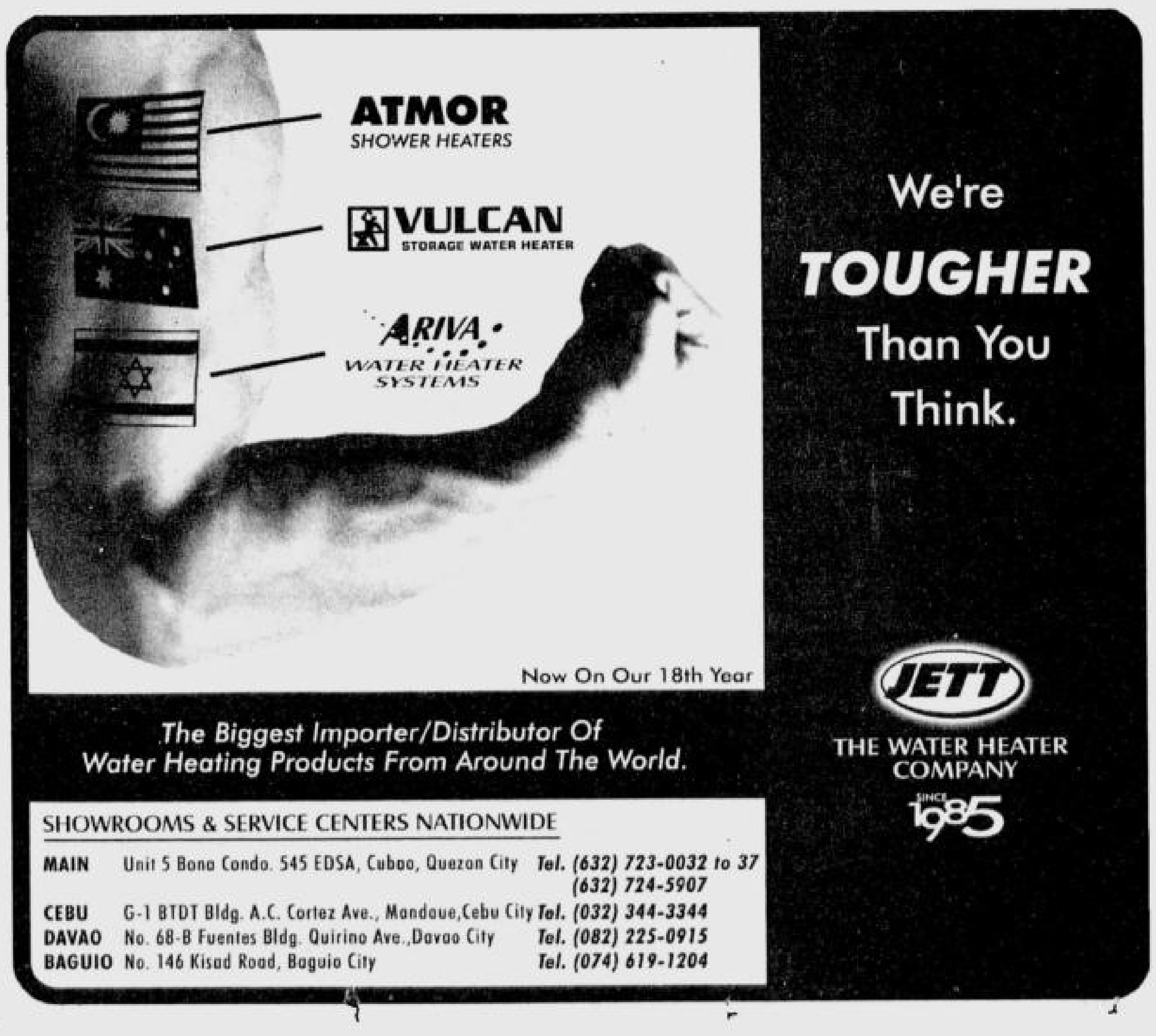
He added that the PSC is now concentrating on funding close to 500 national athletes, who will compete in the Vietnam SEA Games on Dec. 5-13 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

The President accepted last year the country's hosting of the SEA Games for the third time, and even appointed cabinet members to represent the government in the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee or Philsoc.

But misgivings regarding the 2005 hosting emerged after Ms Arroyo declared she won't be running in the 2004 elections.

Last month, she personally instructed the PSC to support the RP campaign in the Vietnam Games since a strong performance would be a good incentive for the country's next hosting job.

The PSC usually gets money from the President's Social Fund aside from regular remittances from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and others through the National Sports Development Fund.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Nationals need 4 UAAP stars for Invitational

By June Navarro

IN AN EFFORT to maximize the training of the RP Team preparing for the Southeast Asian Games, the Philippine Basketball Association will request permission from the University Athletic Association of the Philippines to allow four of its stars to join the national quintet playing in the ongoing Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship.

The four are Rich Alvarez and Wesley Gonzales of Ateneo and University of the East's James Yap and Paul Artadi.

"This a golden opportunity for these players to be part of the national team and they should not throw it away. If possible, we will make accommodations to these players so as not to disrupt the schedule of the UAAP," said PBA Commissioner Noli Eala after a board meeting yesterday.

Eala said a letter requesting UAAP permission to release the four to the RP team will be sent today to this year's UAAP president Jose Capistrano Jr. of Ateneo.

"We will provide all the assistance necessary to make the RP team competitive. We can accommodate not only the schedule but also the number of national players to be entered into the tournament as well," said Eala.

With the four UAAP stars, the RP lineup would balloon to 19.

The RP team, beefed up by NCAA players Ronald Capati and Al Magpayo, were routed by the San Miguel Beermen, 95-55, during the Invitational opener on Sunday.

Bracketed with the Beermen, Coca-Cola, Alaska and China's Magnolia-Jilin Yi Qi, the Nationals have only three games left in the single-round tourney which will run for less than a month.

"This is not a long tournament and the RP team has only three games left. What's three games if the players could improve and hone their skills," said Eala.

Meanwhile, the board deferred decision on the Bong Hawkins-FedEx case to Aug. 12.

Hawkins was among the players absorbed by FedEx when it acquired the Tanduay franchise but team officials found no place for him in the FedEx lineup. Hawkins then asked the help of the PBA in requiring FedEx to honor the terms of his old contract with Tanduay.

WANTED FOUR: From left, Alvarez, Artadi, Gonzales and Yap.

Armstrong: I'll be back for No. 6

PARIS—If only for a day, Lance Armstrong rode his bike like someone who really was on a tour of France.

Pedaling smoothly on the run-in to Paris, the hard work behind him, Armstrong grabbed a flute of champagne, took a sip and then toasted himself by clinking the glass against the lens of a TV camera that had pulled up alongside.

Moments later, he took his right hand off the handlebars and extended all five fingers toward the camera, a gesture that needed no explanation at the end of the world's greatest bicycle race. After three weeks and 3,379.5 km, his life on the run was about to slow to a leisurely victory lap.

After winning his fifth consecutive Tour de France title, Armstrong faced reporters. Would he be back?

"Of course," Armstrong answered in French, "I love my job and I will be back for a sixth."

But hours earlier, on the train from Nantes to Ville d'Avray, the western Paris suburb where the 20th stage began, the Texan hadn't sounded quite so confident.

He was about to join Spanish legend Miguel Indurain as the only champion to string all five of his wins together.

While he claimed only one stage win and the margin of victory was his narrowest ever—61 seconds over five-time runner-up Jan Ullrich—Armstrong still bettered his own record for average speed by a half-second, to 40.85 kph.

At the end of iot all, Armstrong grasped Ullrich's and third-placer Alexandre Vinokourov's hands on the podium and raised them above his head—fitting tribute to what he called their "big war" against him.

A perfectionist, Armstrong said the closeness of the victory is motivation to come back in 2004.

"The other years I won by six, seven minutes. I think it makes it more exciting," he said. *AP*

LANCE Armstrong waves to fans as he rides down the Champs Elysees after winning his fifth consecutive Tour de France in Paris. The Arc de Triomphe is visible in the background. AP

Phelps upstages Spitz

BARCELONA, Spain—Eighteen-year-old American Michael Phelps claimed one of Mark Spitz's records Sunday on the final day of the World Swimming Championships when he broke his fifth individual world mark in ruling the 400 individual medley. Spitz managed only four records in individual events in the Olympics 31 years ago—he was also on three record-setting relays—as he won his legendary seven gold medals. *AP*

Clijsters takes 5th title

STANFORD, California—Kim Clijsters is used to playing long matches against Jennifer Capriati, but now she is winning them. The second-seeded Clijsters overcame No. 3 Capriati, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, in 1 hour, 55 minutes to win her fifth title of the year Sunday at the $565,000 Bank of the West Classic. Capriati had won the first three encounters with Clijsters, but Clijsters has won the last two. ***AFP***

Jacobsen wire-to-wire

CROMWELL, Connecticut—Peter Jacobsen shot a three-under-par 67 (266) on Sunday to win by two shots over Chris Riley and complete a wire-to-wire victory in Greater Hartford Open. In Portmarnock, Ireland, New Zealand's Michael Campbell edged out British Open runner-up Thomas Bjorn of Denmark and Sweden's Peter Hedblom in a playoff to win the Irish Open. ***AFP***

Roddick triumphs

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Top seed Andy Roddick played clever tennis in tough, windy conditions Sunday to beat second seed Paradorn Srichaphan, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4, in the final of the $600,000 ATP hardcourt tournament here. The sixth-ranked Roddick claimed his third title of the year after starting the week off in trouble against France's Cyril Saulnier. ***AFP***

Jao, Alberto split 4th round honors

ROSARIO, Batangas—Jolet Jao and Toti Alberto, the country's winningest motorcycle racers, dominated yesterday's fourth round of the Shell Superbikes Series, splitting the day's two races at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Banking on experience, the two riders went head to head in the morning and afternoon races to alternately place first and second, thereby adding 45 points to their respective scorecards.

The Shell-sponsored Jao dominated the morning race that saw three novice riders crash halfway in the 12-lap ride. Jao finished the race in his Kawasaki ZX6R, ahead of Alberto by a 15-bike length.

In the afternoon race, a downpour stopped the riders, forcing them to change to a rain setup. The Malayan Insurance-backed Alberto took the lead with four laps to go.

Fil-Am gymnast makes it to Vietnam

By Dennis U. Eroa

NEIL Faustino, a Fil-Am gymnast who loves to read Harry Potter's series of amazing books, will now officially carry the country's colors in the coming Vietnam SEA Games.

An academic All-American and last year's 2002 Eastern College Athletic Conference rookie of the year, Faustino impressed national men's coach Santiago Ty as a walk-in prospect during a workout by the country's top gymnasts two weeks ago at the Rizal Memorial gym.

The 5-foot-6, 20-year-old Faustino is a student at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Ty said Faustino can boost the country's gold-medal bid in the Games.

Steve Hontiveros, chair of the SEA Games technical commission, confirmed yesterday that Faustino, as requested by Gymnastics Association of the Philippines president Chuck Buenaventura, has been included in the Vietnam-bound team.

"Chuck attended our meeting and proudly showed the INQUIRER article about Neil," said Hontiveros. "I'm sure Neil deserves to be in the list."

Faustino joined the Nationals' practice for one week before he flew back to the US last July 19. He'll be back first week of November to join the final preparation of the RP team before the SEA Games set early in December.

"I look with confidence as we battle the Thais and the Malaysians for the gold especially in the team event. The individual golds will follow," said Ty.

FAUSTINO: Gold-medal hope.

The smiling butcher

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HOW can boxing be called the sweet science when it isn't really sweet at all?

Manny Pacquiao destroyed a Mexican butcher in less than seven minutes on Sunday. You call that sweet?

It was sweet, yes, for Pacquiao—as it is for practically all winners; not only in boxing but also probably in all sports.

But how about Emmanuel Lucero, the carnicero (butcher)? Where was the sweetness in his defeat at the hands of Pacquiao, the first in the Mexican's career after 21 straight victories?

Boxing as sweet science is, indeed, an irony.

It is science in the sense that a boxer's primary aim is actually the opposite of his mission, which is that he/she must beat the enemy. In beating his/her foe, a boxer must first learn the art of defense. Without proper defense, there will be no proper offense.

It can also be the other way. Without proper offense, there will be no proper defense.

Pacquiao exhibited both on Sunday.

Alas, Lucero had none of the two on Sunday.

Pacquiao had both defense and offense at their most proper forms.

Lucero had both defense and offense at their wildest forms.

While Pacquiao defended well and attacked well, Lucero had nothing but defects.

Perhaps, Lucero was born to be a butcher: He doesn't need defensive skills in killing his prey; all he needs is one wild whack to ax his victims to death. Before Sunday, he's knocked out 12.

Who said butchers need defense?

To Lucero and his fellow butchers, those due for the chopping block are as defenseless as the six million Jews gassed to death by Hitler in the Horrible Holocaust.

Pacquiao knew of Lucero's power from scouts who had seen Lucero fight. But Pacquiao also learned from watching the tapes of Lucero's fights that the Mexican was oftentimes wild. Meaning, Lucero's power came mostly from punches thrown wild. Bara-bara, we call it in Pinoy sports lingo.

In the first round of their fight on Sunday, Lucero immediately showed his true worth: Artless. Science-less. He fought like a crouching tiger, literally, and not like a merciless butcher, figuratively.

A vaunted power puncher with his much-ballyhooed rib-breaking body shots, we saw none of that from Lucero on Sunday right from the very start. He fought scared.

Oh, yes, Pacquiao allowed Lucero to land some shots in the middle of the first round. But that's typical of Pacquiao: he always tests the waters first.

Finding no dangerous under current, not even a minor sudden dip, midway into the round, Pacquiao started to work. He began late in the first round, transforming from a meek defender to an enraged attacker.

From the second round on, it was just a matter of time before Pacquiao would put Lucero alongside his butchered prey. After giving Lucero a terrible battering in the second round, Pacquiao ended it with just 48 seconds gone in the third.

Pacquiao, a southpaw, let loose a glancing, meaningless right to the face before uncorking a blazing, extraordinarily meaningful left to the cheek.

Jarred as though he was whacked with a lead pipe, Lucero's knees became limp like noodles; his eyes dazed and blank as outer space. Fighting off a knockdown, Lucero appeared like a ship ready to keel over. On sheer instinct, he turned his back on Pacquiao as he wobbled on drunken, rubbery legs toward the ropes. It was then that the referee stepped in, waved both his hands to signal the end of the fight.

Lucero, the referee desperately propping him up from behind, momentarily sank on bended knees before managing to stand up —using the ropes to hang on to consciousness, if not to dear life.

It was Pacquiao's fourth successful defense of his 122-lb world crown—all by knockout. In notching his 39th win against only two defeats, the 24-year-old pride of General Santos City has scored his 29th KO victory, 16 of them coming in the third round.

When it was over, it was clear Lucero didn't know where he was.

In a slaughterhouse? But this time, he was the butchered and not the butcher?

When Lucero came to, Pacquiao was embracing him.

The Mexican butcher was smiling like a little boy.

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SPORTSWATCH

Loyzaga doing well after surgery

LOYZAGA

CALOY "The Great Difference" Loyzaga is recovering well after undergoing bypass heart surgery yesterday at the Princess Alexandria Hospital in Brisbane, Australia. "Just saw my dad inside the ICU (Intensive Care Unit). Conscious *siya pero* groggy due to medication," said eldest son Chito in a text message. "Responding well and getting needed rest." The 72-year-old Caloy, considered as the country's greatest basketball player, powered the Philippines to third place, its highest ever, in the 1954 World Basketball Championship in Brazil.

Superferry Cebu boxers beat Navy

WG&A Superferry Cebu Boxing team beat Philippine Navy, 4-3, at the start of provincial and regional participation of the Abap Go for Gold in San Juan, Metro Manila over the weekend. The Go for Gold San Juan edition which was hosted by Mayor JV Ejercito and Vice Mayor Leonardo "Boy" Celles will be aired on ABC 5 on Aug. 2 and 9, from 11 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Pinweight Rey Caitom and lightweight Caesar Amonsot led the WG&A Superferry Cebu's onslaught against the Navymen. Caitom stopped Kimkim Gerodias via RSC Outclass 44 seconds in the second round while Amonsot outclassed Mark Anthony Borja 1 minute 45 second in the second round. Alex John Banal and Eden Nietes sealed WG&A Superferry Cebu's victory with wins in the light flyweight and featherweight divisions. Banal whipped Ramil Eballe, 64-45, and Nietes routed Edcel Teringtering, 77-26. Philippine Navy's win came from Johnny Cadigal, Jonard Baja and Jerop Mercado, dropping its first team match up in the Go for Gold being sponsored by Revicon, Waterfront Hotels and Casinos in Cebu City, Pacific Heights in Tagaytay City, Family Rubbing Alcohol, Accel and WG&A Superferry. Lhyven Salazar was given a standing eight count after being hit by a lucky punch in the second round of his light flyweight match against Franklyn Albia of Bacolod City, 32-46 and absorbed his first defeat since the revival of the Go for Gold.Other winners in the special bouts were Glenn Gonzales of North Cotabato beating Warlito Parrenas in the lightflyweight division, 77-68. Joan Tipon with a 54-51 victory against Michael Farenas in the bantamweight division, Christian De Asis stopping his elder brother Fernando De Asis via RSC injury 1 minute and 33 seconds in the third round and Mitchel Martinez winning the lone women's bout against Angeline Bautista via RSCO 1 minute and 45 seconds in the second round.

Sporting exhange in BIMP Games

SPORTING exchange among member countries highlight the 3rd BIMP-EAGA (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asean Growth Area) Friendship Games set Aug. 23-25 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. A pool of resource speakers, experts in sports psychology, nutrition, strength and conditioning, health sports management, coaching, sports for peace and recreation and tourism will be on hand to give their views and insights vital to sports development. "Our focal point in reviving the BIMP-EAGA is for grassroots exposure. The games serve as stepping stone for our aspiring athletes to reach their goals of joining the national team," said Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Chair Eric Buhain. Among the country's national athletes, the Alamara brothers—Ali, Frazier and Norton—and Mansueto Pelenio of water polo were products of the BIMP-EAGA, last staged in Sarawak, Malaysia six years ago.

TNT juniors thrash TJ Hotdogs

TALK 'N Text opened its bid for a second straight title with an 82-66 thrashing of Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, 82-66, at the start of the 2nd Bert Lina Cup Six Footers basketball league at the Cebu Coliseum Sunday. The Cebuano TNT juniors are hoping to duplicate the title run of their Luzon counterparts in this weeklong cagefest for players 18-years-old and-below and standing six-feet-and-above. In other games, Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc. 2002 season Rookie of the Year Jayford Rodriguez powered John O past Samsung, 101-71, while the Youth for Roco clobbered Timex, 97-69. Rodriguez scored 41 points while Eulogio Lasala Jr. and Alexander Regis Jr. contributed 17 and 15 points, respectively, for the University of Visayas players-laden John O team.

San Beda XI downs UAAP champs

SAN Beda's bull-strong striker Dan Padernal delivered the *coup de grace* from 25 yards out as the NCAA champion finished off UAAP titlist UE, 3-0, in Saturday's opener of the 'Ang Liga Football Cup.' The showdown started with 15 minutes of rain, making the field slippery and preventing both sides from scoring in the first 45 minutes. But San Beda came out of the break with all cylinders firing and were rewarded with quick goals by Padernal on the 46th minute from a through-ball by Jeffrey Liman and then doubled it in the 49th with a Vaughn Mellendrez strike from another Liman assist. UE coach Lloyd Lim said they were caught by surprise with San Beda's game plan after the break. "It just wasn't our day."

La Salle opens defense of chess title

DE LA SALLE opens defense of its men's crown without its top board player when the 66th UAAP chess tournament begins this weekend at the University of the East Briefing Room in Manila. Oliver Dimakiling, the Archers' Board One ace the past seasons, will no longer be around but the defending champions will have junior standout John Paul Gomez in their roster when they tackle University of Santo Tomas Sunday. The men's and women's chess competitions start at 8 a.m. UE meets Adamson, Ateneo battles NU and UP takes on FEU in the other men's contests. Women's action will see De La Salle, the reigning titlist, taking an opening day bye. The duels Sunday will be between NU and UST, Ateneo and UE and FEU and UP. The order of finish in the men's chess contest last season was De La Salle, UST, UE, Adamson, Ateneo, UP, NU and FEU. The women's contest had De La Salle finishing first, followed by UST, UE, UP, FEU, Ateneo and NU.

Explosive golf duel on Dream

AP ELS

RANCHO SANTA FE, California—Ernie Els has had climactic duels with Tiger Woods. Finally, they are on the same team. "We compete week in and week out, in the Presidents Cup, on the regular tour and in the major championships," Els said. "It will be great to play with him. I don't think we've ever had a chance to play together." In an explosive duel to be telecast on Dream Satellite TV Channel 49 today, Woods and Els—the best two players in the world—will team up against Phil Mickelson and Sergio Garcia in the "Battle at the Bridges" at Rancho Santa Fe, near San Diego, California.

Ailing caddie inspires Watson

TURNBERRY, Scotland—Tom Watson thought he'd left his dying caddie at home. But Bruce Edwards was along for Watson's wild victory in the Senior British Open on Sunday. Watson said he was inspired by Edwards as he won a sudden death playoff on the second hole, after leader John Mason blew a two-shot lead with a double-bogey six on the 18th hole of the final round. Edwards, who first caddied for Watson in 1973, was diagnosed in January with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or Lou Gehrig's disease. "He told me I was going to come over here and win this thing without him," Watson said. He bogeyed the final hole for a 64 and a record low 17-under total of 263 like Mason, who carded a 67 in a championship of record-breaking scores. Bob Charles' 14-year-old record of 11-under 269 on the same Turnberry links was beaten easily by four players—Watson, Mason, Bruce Summerhays and Tom Kite. Summerhays finished third at 264 and Kite fourth at 266. *AP*

ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Growing trackfest roster

THE ENTRY list to the 2003 Manila Asian Athletics Association championships have swelled to 28 countries and 574 athletes.

And with nearly two months before the trackfest kicks off Sept. 19-23 at the Rizal track and field stadium, the figure is still expected to grow before curtains rise on the tournament that held its inaugurals in Marikina City 29 years ago.

The late former Philippine Olympic Committee head and Surigao Gov. Jose Sering, who held two separate terms as athletics chief (from 1969 to 1981 and 1984 to 1991), was the first president of the group that was originally known as the 4As (Asian Amateur Athletics Association).

A total of 188 officials are also expected to join the delegations in the 15th edition of the tournament, Manila is hosting for the third time. Ten years ago, the Asian championships were also staged here under then newly installed Patafa president Go Teng Kok.

A big number of dignitaries that include members of the royalty, the diplomatic corps and parliament are also attending the Asian Congress to be held simultaneous with the 3As on Sept. 19.

Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan—former Russian republics—and Hong Kong are the latest additions. Thirty-three Kazakh athletes are entered, 13 are from Turkmenistan and 7 from the former Crown Colony.

Go, who briefly reported for work Wednesday after surviving a slay try last July 1, said he is mulling the idea of fielding more local athletes so that potential champions can get exposure.

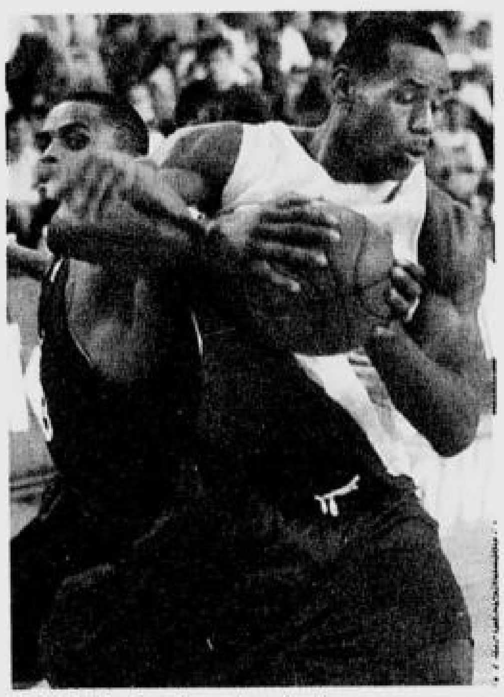
"I will confer with secretary general Ben Silva-Netto and my coaches to see the wisdom of allowing athletes in the developmental pool to take part. Personally, I believe that the experience of participating against the best in Asia will do them good in the coming years," Go said.

Deadline for the final submission of entries is Sept. 1.

So far, world power China and India are sending the biggest delegation with 70 people each, followed by Qatar with 69, Saudi Arabia 58 and Korea 41.

Except for Thailand, Cambodia and 2003 SEA Games host Vietnam, all Southeast Asian members have submitted their entries. Singapore has the largest with 36, Indonesia 28, Malaysia 21, Brunei 7, Myanmar 3 and Laos 3.

No word has been heard from Japan.



LEBRON: Good as advertised.

James shines vs NBA vets

LOS ANGELES—Following a shaky first half, teenager sensation LeBron James showed what he could do in his first formal game against NBA veterans, although the intensity wasn't close to what it'll be when the season begins in three months.

James scored eight of his 28 points in the final five minutes and Carmelo Anthony had 34 points to lead a group of incoming rookies to a 127-123 victory over a star-studded squad of veterans in the 18th annual Magic Johnson charity game at Los Angeles' Staples Center.

"I felt pretty good," said James, who went straight from high school to the NBA as the first pick by the Cleveland Cavaliers in last month's draft.

The rookies won despite the presence of such stars as Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker of the Boston Celtics, Baron Davis of the New Orleans Hornets, Ron Artest of the Indiana Pacers, Shawn Marion of the Phoenix Suns and Gary Payton and Derek Fisher of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Johnson, one of the greatest pointguards in NBA history, was quite impressed with both James and Anthony, who played one season at Syracuse—leading the Orangemen to the NCAA championship—before turning pro. *AP*

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RP Spring-Lhuillier leaves for Qatar tilt

SPRING Cooking Oil-Lhuillier Team Philippines leaves with high expectations for Doha tonight to compete in the Qatar Invitational basketball tournament set July 30 to Aug. 6.

Backed by the National Basketball League, the Spring-Lhuillier squad is composed of delegation head Lemuel Ortiz, team manager Tito Palma, head coach Raul Alcoseba, assistant coach Ricky Magallanes and players Bobby Parks, Samboy Lim, Jeffrey Flowers, Rodel Manuel, Mario Reyes, Bernard Tanpua, Rolly Menor, Ruben de la Rosa, Aldrin Ocanada, Aldrich Reyes, Arnold Rodriguez and Darryl Smith.

"We expect to encounter tough opposition because we will play against some of the best teams in Asia and in the Middle East, including national teams from Jordan, Iran and Qatar," said Palma, who is also the NBL secretary general.

Palma thanked team owners Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla of Spring and Michel Lhuillier of M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala for supporting the team's trip.

Meanwhile, Spring Cooking Oil ended its NBL campaign on a winning note by beating the Pampanga Bulls, 101-91, last Saturday at the CP Tinga Memorial Hall in Taguig.

With Rodel Manuel and Jay Lapinid at the firing end, the Cooking Oil Masters led from start to finish.

Manuel finished with 25 points while Lapinid added 18. Rolly Menor contributed 14 for Spring, which wrapped up the eliminations with a 3-win, 9-loss card.

Scores:

SPRING 101—Manuel 25, Lapinid 18, Menor 14, Habelito 11, T. Bautista 9, M. Reyes 7, Limbo 7, Primero 4, Sese 4, Tanpua 2.

PAMPANGA 91—D. Bautista 16, Manalac 14, S. Garcia 13, Santos 10, Bansil 9, A Garcia 8, R. Garcia 5, Tadeo 4, Tolentino 3, Coronel 3, Cocjin 2, Duyag 2, Manlutac 2, Yambao 0.

Quarters: 27-24, 60-44, 84-65, 101-91.

Carmen Valley prevails; Lopez takes indv'l title

CARMEL Valley 1 nipped Cagayan de Oro 2 by a mere stroke in the team competition even as Noel Lopez posted a lopsided victory in the Open division of the 17th Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) Southern Leg tournament recently.

Rey Orimaco, Ray Deleste, Henry Abrino, Roger Tan and Nino Castrence aggregated 307 points after two rounds at the scenic Pueblo del Oro Golf Club in Cagayan de Oro, and the rolling Del Monte Golf Club in Bukidnon to capture the top award.

Cagayan de Oro 1 clinched the Founders division, Bagumbayan topped the Governors category, Metro Cagayan de Oro bagged the Presidents trophy and Cagayan de Oro 2 took the Fellowship plum in team play.

While Doy Mercado of Bagumbayan took home the overall individual title with his 84, Emir Abutazil edged former national seniors champ Richie Garcia for the low gross award in the tourney backed by FedEx Air21 and PLDT as major sponsors. Cebu Pacific served as official carrier and Pryce Plaza the official hotel.

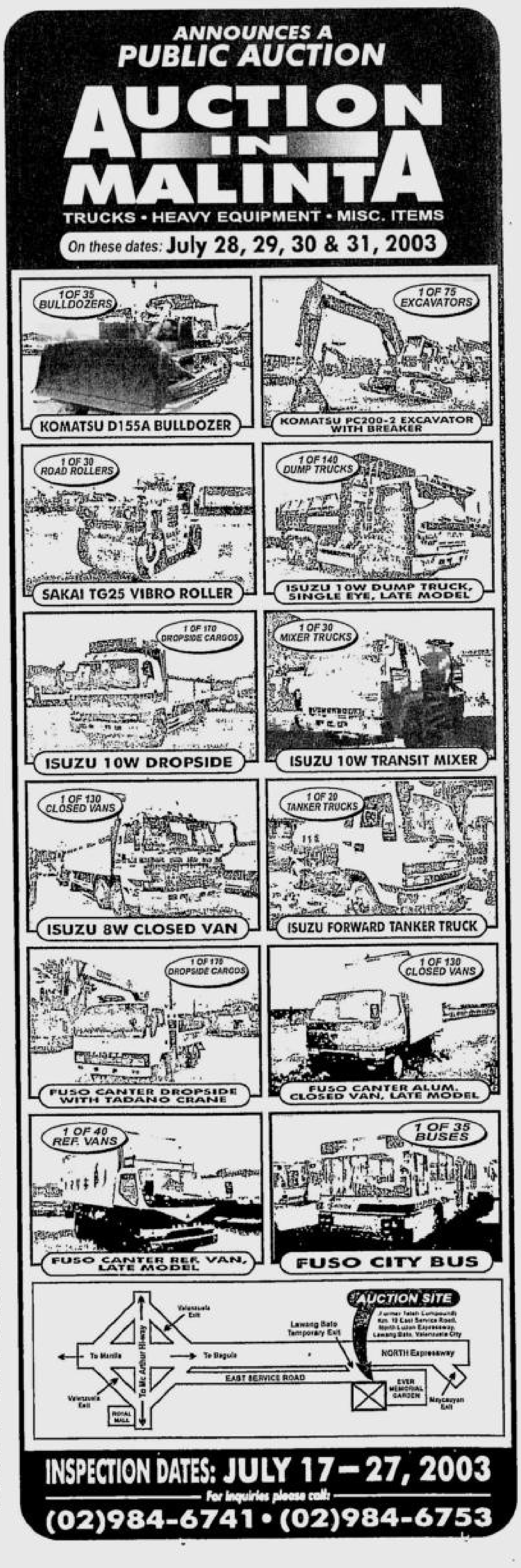
Abutazil rode on his one-under 71 at Del Monte to beat Garcia by three strokes with a 150 total. Garcia had a 77 in the second round for 153.

Lopez, brother of swing guru Bong, fired a System 36 nine-under 135 on a couple of sub-par gross scores and nobody managed to get closer than eight strokes.

The other individual winners were Pike Braga of Bacolod-Marapara who nipped Abutazil in the countback for the Class A plum, Modesto Castillo of Matina-Davao in Class B, Benedict Uy in Class C and Judith Orimaco in the ladies division.

Other sponsors of the event organized by the RGFFP headed by its chairman Melito Salazar are General Nutrition Centers through its president Poch Borromeo, RGFFP EVP Albert Que, Asia Brewery, Enriquez Security Services and Storck Candies.

Jovy Mendoza, a non-tournament winner, went home with the biggest prize after his name was picked in the raffle for the Samsung Projection TV worth P100,000.



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1 OF 130 CLOSED VANS — ISUZU 8W CLOSED VAN
1 OF 20 TANKER TRUCKS — ISUZU FORWARD TANKER TRUCK
1 OF 170 DROPSIDE CARGOS — FUSO CANTER DROPSIDE WITH TADANO CRANE
1 OF 130 CLOSED VANS — FUSO CANTER ALUM. CLOSED VAN, LATE MODEL
1 OF 40 REF. VANS — FUSO CANTER REF. VAN, LATE MODEL
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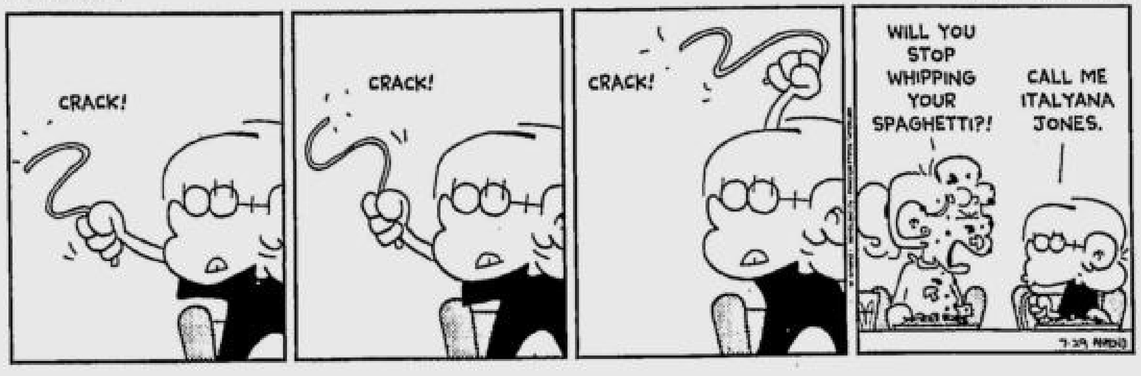
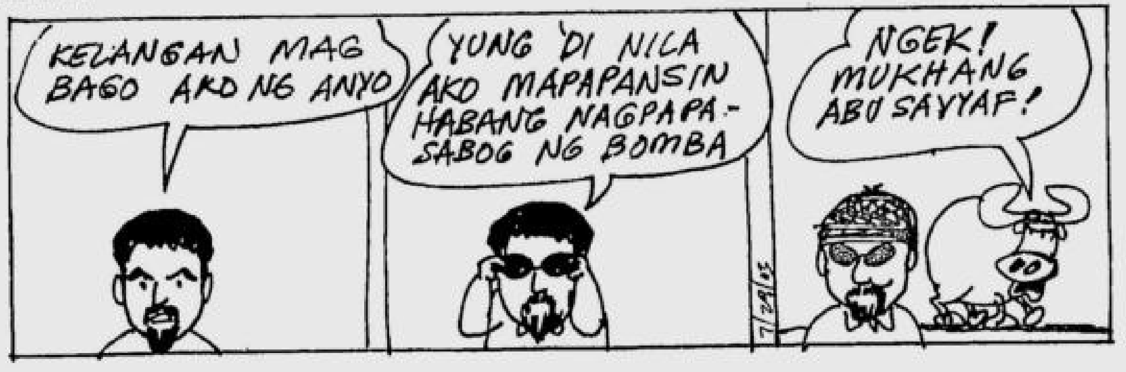
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


CRACK!
CRACK!
CRACK!
WILL YOU STOP WHIPPING YOUR SPAGHETTI?!
CALL ME ITALYANA JONES.
7-29 AMEND

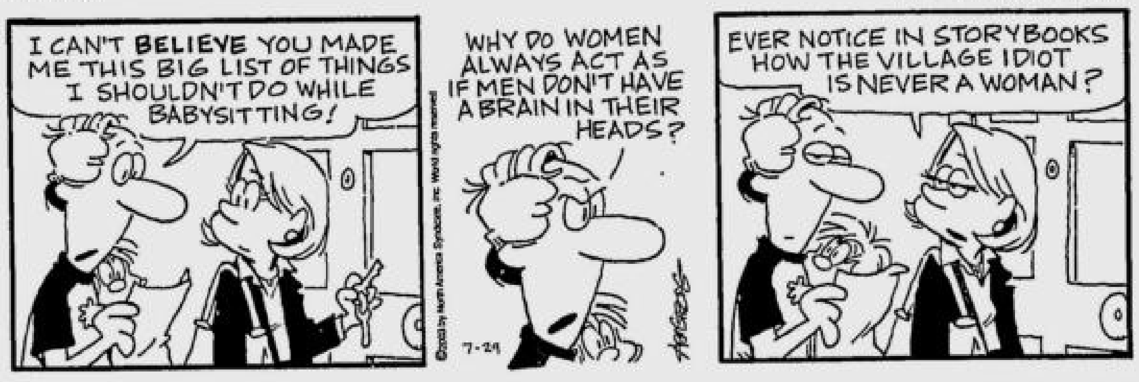
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN MAG BAGO AKO NG ANYO
YUNG 'DI NILA AKO MAPAPANSIN HABANG NAGPAPA-SABOG NG BOMBA
NGEK! MUKHANG ABU SAYYAF!
7/29/03

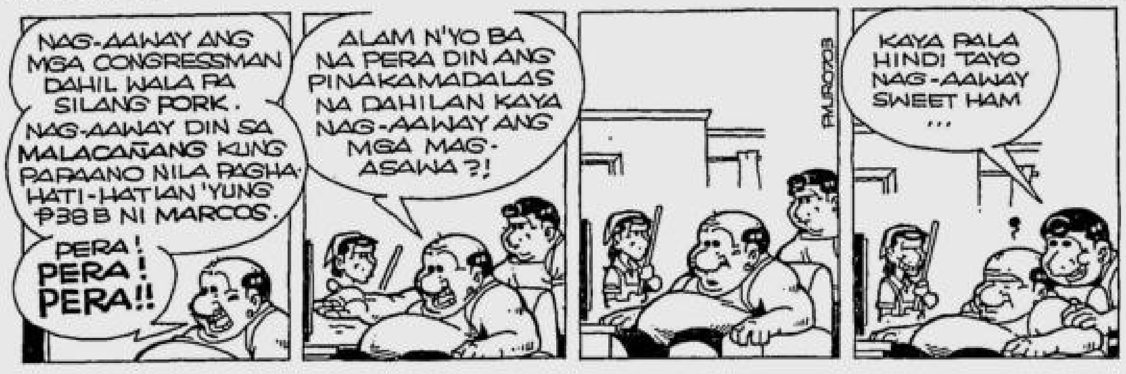
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE ME THIS BIG LIST OF THINGS I SHOULDN'T DO WHILE BABYSITTING!
WHY DO WOMEN ALWAYS ACT AS IF MEN DON'T HAVE A BRAIN IN THEIR HEADS?
EVER NOTICE IN STORYBOOKS HOW THE VILLAGE IDIOT IS NEVER A WOMAN?
7-29

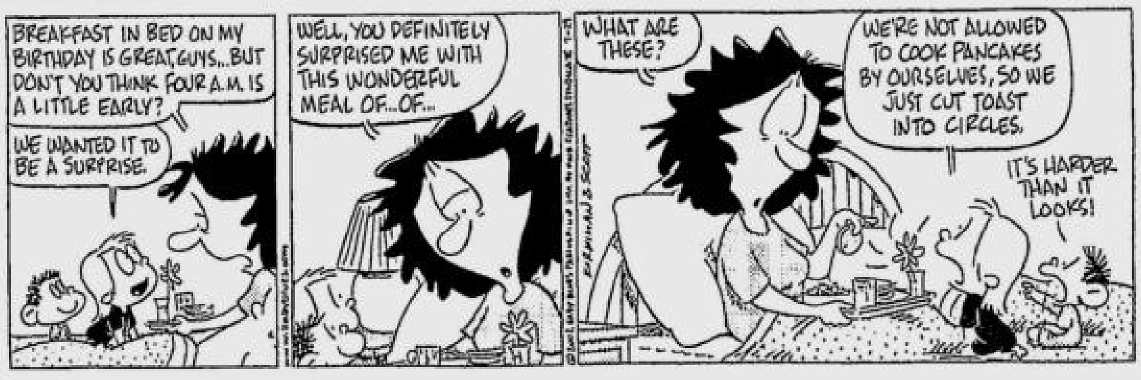
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAG-AAWAY ANG MGA CONGRESSMAN DAHIL WALA PA SILANG PORK.
NAG-AAWAY DIN SA MALACAÑANG KUNG PAPAANO NILA PAGHA-HATI-HATIAN 'YUNG ₱38 B NI MARCOS.
PERA! PERA! PERA!!
ALAM N'YO BA NA PERA DIN ANG PINAKAMADALAS NA DAHILAN KAYA NAG-AAWAY ANG MGA MAG-ASAWA?!
PMJR0703
KAYA PALA HINDI TAYO NAG-AAWAY SWEET HAM ...

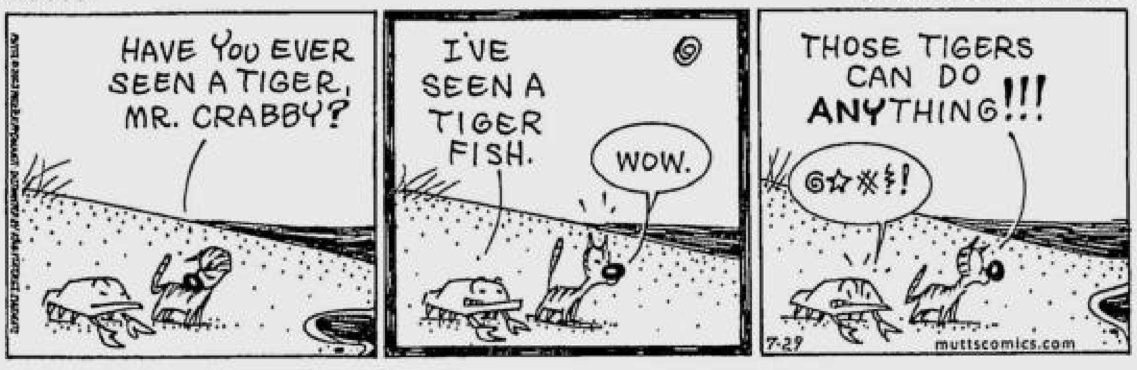
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BREAKFAST IN BED ON MY BIRTHDAY IS GREAT, GUYS... BUT DON'T YOU THINK FOUR A.M. IS A LITTLE EARLY?
WE WANTED IT TO BE A SURPRISE.
WELL, YOU DEFINITELY SURPRISED ME WITH THIS WONDERFUL MEAL OF...OF...
WHAT ARE THESE?
WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO COOK PANCAKES BY OURSELVES, SO WE JUST CUT TOAST INTO CIRCLES.
IT'S HARDER THAN IT LOOKS!

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A TIGER, MR. CRABBY?
I'VE SEEN A TIGER FISH.
WOW.
THOSE TIGERS CAN DO ANYTHING!!!
6☆※$!
7-29
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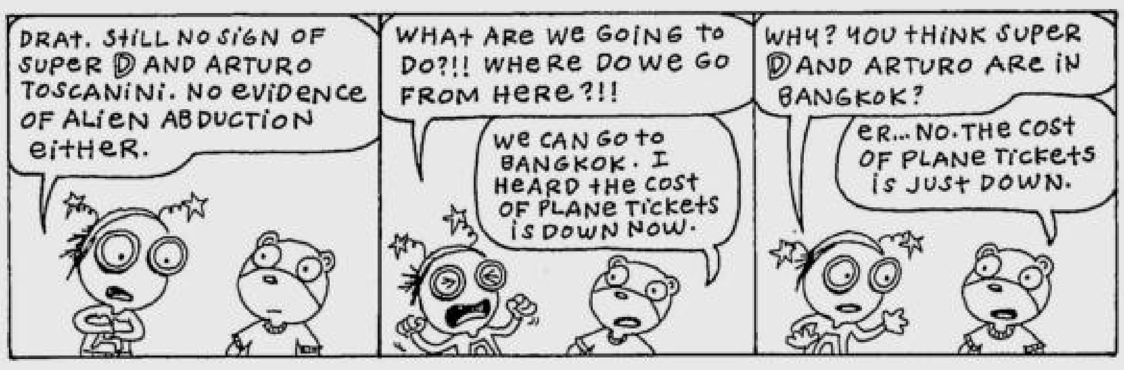
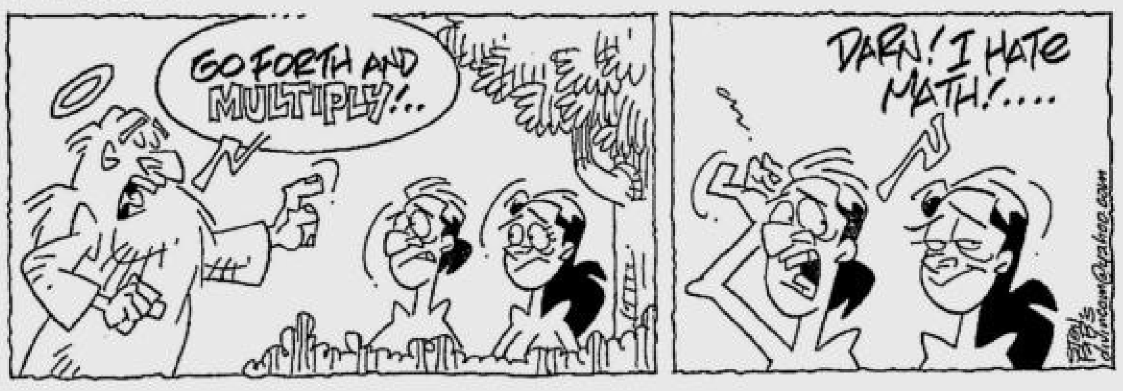
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DRAT. STILL NO SIGN OF SUPER D AND ARTURO TOSCANINI. NO EVIDENCE OF ALIEN ABDUCTION EITHER.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?!! WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?!!
WE CAN GO TO BANGKOK. I HEARD THE COST OF PLANE TICKETS IS DOWN NOW.
WHY? YOU THINK SUPER D AND ARTURO ARE IN BANGKOK?
ER... NO. THE COST OF PLANE TICKETS IS JUST DOWN.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY!..
DARN! I HATE MATH!....

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are intelligent and observant. You easily see the big picture, and this is why you make pungent observations and conclusions about life. You are very loyal to what you believe in. You are often in the competitive world of business. Enormous and exciting changes take place for you this year.

Birthdate of: Peter Jennings, TV journalist; Elizabeth Dole, politician; Alexandra Paul, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You want to party and have fun today! Your dramatic, theatrical nature is aroused. Enjoy playful activities with children.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): There is a strong emphasis on home and family today. Discussions with parents or family members are significant. This is a good day to mend broken fences.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an extremely busy day for you with respect to errands, short trips, conversations with colleagues, shopping, buying and selling, and negotiating with others. You are on the go!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have the chance to get a better job, improve where you now work, or figure out how to boost your income in some way today. This is a great day for business and financial matters.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Five planets are in your sign today. This is most unusual! Not only is the entire world having a "Leo hit," you are pumped with energy and confidence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Dealings with the government and large institutions are a strong focus for you today. However, if you get a chance, steal some quiet solitude just for yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an extremely social day! Your popularity rating is high. Enjoy talking to friends and acquaintances. Linger over lunch, coffee or drinks with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Five planets are at High Noon in your chart now. People notice you! You easily make a fabulous impression on others. That's why you should make hay while the sun shines.

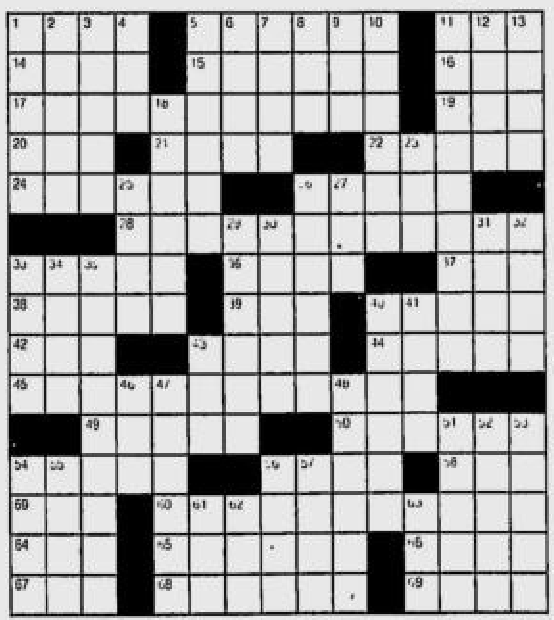
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's important to do something different and out of the ordinary today. Vary your routine in any way that you can. You want adventure, learning and stimulation!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your research skills are fabulous now. You will leave no stone unturned if you need to look for answers. Tackle red-tape matters connected with insurance, debt, shared property and wills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your social scene is off-the-wall lately. Suffice to say your dance card is full. Enjoy talking to others and schmoozing with friends. (It isn't always this easy.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are super-keen to get better organized in absolutely every aspect of your life. This includes improving your health as well. You want to get on top of your game!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA

7/29/03

ACROSS

1 Southern veggie
5 Andre of tennis
11 Tongue-clicking sound
14 Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
15 Detroit cager
16 Classic car's letters
17 Helen/Gregory typing?
19 Avant-garde French sculptor
20 Greek vowel
21 Little piggies
22 Cornmeal concoctions
24 Tell
26 Draws closer
28 Clint/Ben bruised?
33 Knitting stitch
36 Actor Cronyn
37 Part of R.S.A.
38 Be of one mind
39 Harem room
40 John of rock
42 Narrow inlet
43 Fox chaser?
44 Actress Della
45 Shelley/Martin gist?
49 Mends by reweaving
50 Spaghetti, etc.
54 Bamboo lover
56 Certain feds
58 Lilly or Wallach
59 Actress Gabor
60 Jeff/Brandon summons?
64 Edge
65 City near Rawalpindi
66 On a cruise
67 Avail oneself of
68 Pencil end
69 Hogan and Crenshaw

DOWN

1 Dark yellow
2 Fonda film
3 Of the kidneys
4 Qty.
5 Temporary respiration stoppage
6 Author of "The Immoralist"
7 Eurasian vipers
8 Sault __ Marie
9 Assn.
10 Stamp's partner
11 Interpret
12 Very dry
13 Keystone __
18 Churchill's successor
23 Poetic planet
25 Ready and willing partner?
26 Broadway Joe
27 Helm dir.
29 Combinations of tones
30 Praise
31 ET vehicles
32 White-tailed eagle
33 Psychologist Jung
34 Exchange fee
35 Product identifier
40 Messenger's business
41 Permits to
43 Station from Tenn.
46 Flit about
47 Ready for the plow
48 Kitchen gadget
51 Tantalize
52 Mel or Woody
53 "__ Marner"
54 Nation in the Andes
55 Rara __
56 Ring rulings, briefly
57 Foal's mom
61 Acoustic organ
62 Half a dance?
63 Taxi

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	O	B	■	T	O	R	T	■	S	E	T	S
A	R	U	B	A	■	O	M	O	O	■	M	I	R	E
W	I	R	E	T	O	W	I	R	E	■	I	D	E	A
■	■	■	■	T	A	S	T	Y	■	P	L	E	A	T
S	T	O	V	E	S	■	■	■	A	L	E	R	T	S
C	O	V	E	R	T	O	C	O	V	E	R	■	■	■
A	M	I	T	Y	■	V	A	P	I	D	■	S	L	R
L	E	N	O	■	C	A	M	A	S	■	O	L	I	O
D	I	E	■	M	A	T	E	R	■	I	R	A	N	I
■	■	■	G	A	V	E	L	T	O	G	A	V	E	L
P	A	L	A	C	E	■	■	■	U	N	L	E	S	S
I	N	A	N	E	■	B	L	A	S	E	■	■	■	■
L	O	R	D	■	D	O	O	R	T	O	D	O	O	R
E	D	G	E	■	A	R	A	M	■	U	N	I	T	E
S	E	E	R	■	D	E	N	Y	■	S	A	L	T	Y

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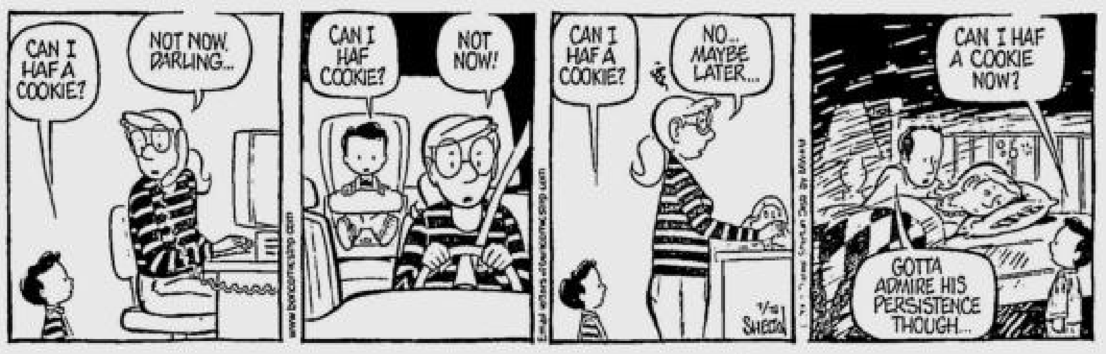
7/28/03

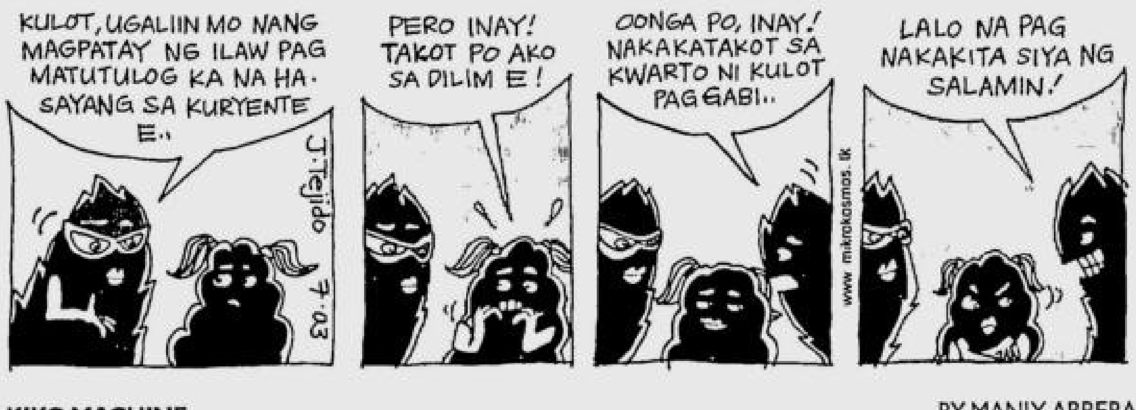
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


CAN I HAF A COOKIE?
NOT NOW, DARLING...
CAN I HAF COOKIE?
NOT NOW!
CAN I HAF A COOKIE?
NO... MAYBE LATER...
CAN I HAF A COOKIE NOW?
GOTTA ADMIRE HIS PERSISTENCE THOUGH...

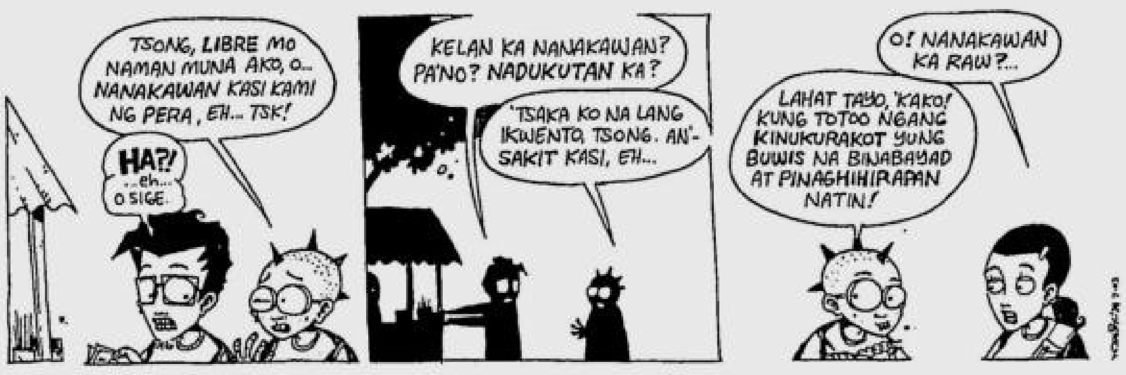
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KULOT, UGALIIN MO NANG MAGPATAY NG ILAW PAG MATUTULOG KA NA HA. SAYANG SA KURYENTE E..
J. Tejido 7.03
PERO INAY! TAKOT PO AKO SA DILIM E!
OONGA PO, INAY! NAKAKATAKOT SA KWARTO NI KULOT PAG GABI..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
LALO NA PAG NAKAKITA SIYA NG SALAMIN!

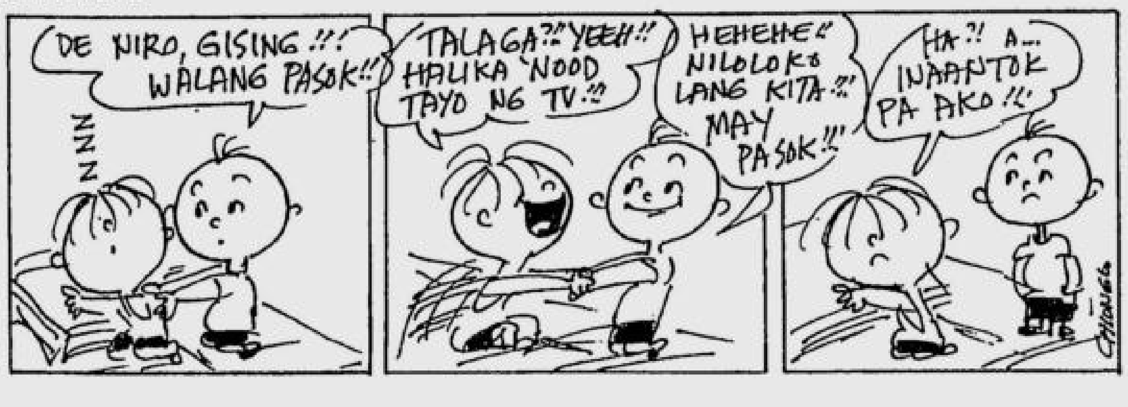
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, LIBRE MO NAMAN MUNA AKO, O... NANAKAWAN KASI KAMI NG PERA, EH... TSK!
HA?! ...eh... O SIGE.
KELAN KA NANAKAWAN? PA'NO? NADUKUTAN KA?
'TSAKA KO NA LANG IKWENTO, TSONG. AN'-SAKIT KASI, EH...
O! NANAKAWAN KA RAW?...
LAHAT TAYO, 'KAKO! KUNG TOTOO NGANG KINUKURAKOT YUNG BUWIS NA BINABAYAD AT PINAGHIHIRAPAN NATIN!

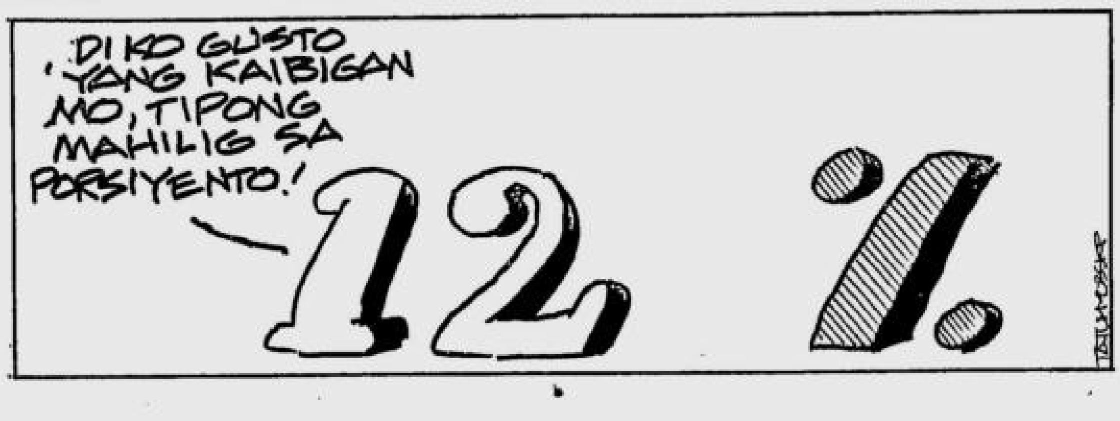
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, GISING!!! WALANG PASOK!!
ZZZ
TALAGA?!! YEEH!! HALIKA 'NOOD TAYO NG TV!!
HEHEHE!! NILOLOKO LANG KITA!! MAY PASOK!!
HA?! A... INAANTOK PA AKO!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'DI KO GUSTO 'YANG KAIBIGAN MO, TIPONG MAHILIG SA PORSIYENTO!
12 %

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AYALA CINEMAS

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1 TOMB RAIDER 2	1 TOMB RAIDER 2	ArtFilm 1 MIRANDA (Exclusive) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 TOMB RAIDER 2 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	THX 1 TOMB RAIDER 2
2 TERMINATOR 3	2 TOMB RAIDER 2	2 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 TOMB RAIDER 2 1:10, 3:35, 6:00, 8:25, 10:50	2 TOMB RAIDER 2
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TOMB RAIDER 2 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20	APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG -BACK2BACK Aug. 28 -9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TERMINATOR 3 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40	3 TOMB RAIDER 2
4 TOMB RAIDER 2	4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 DOWN W/ LOVE 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
	5 DOWN WITH LOVE		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TOMB RAIDER 2 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00, 11:25	5 TERMINATOR 3
	6 TOMB RAIDER 2			
	7 TERMINATOR 3			

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1 TERMINATOR-3
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) TOMB RAIDER-2
5 WILD BUTTERFLY

METROPOLIS star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 WILD BUTTERFLY
3 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 TOMB RAIDER
6 TOMB RAIDER

M star

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 KAPIT BAHAY

PREMIERE CINEMA

THX

(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

TOMB RAIDER-2

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
2 DUMB & DUMBERER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 JULIETA
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) TOMB RAIDER-2
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED
5 IMPOSTOR
6 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
7 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER-2
8 (SDDS) TERMINATOR-3
9 WILD BUTTERFLY

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 (SDDS) TOMB RAIDER-2
5 WILD BUTTERFLY
6 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER-2
7 (DTS) TERMINATOR-3
8
9

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 (SDDS) TERMINATOR-3
3 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER-2
4 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER-2
5 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3 (DTS) TERMINATOR-3
4 WILD BUTTERFLY
5 (SDDS) TOMB RAIDER-2

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 TOMB RAIDER-2

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 TOMB RAIDER-2

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
Lords SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
4 WILD BUTTERFLY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) TOMB RADER-2
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 -
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 TOMB RADER-2
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TERMINATOR 3
4 (SDDS) TOMB RAIDER 2
5 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER 2
6 BANGKOK HANUTED
7 DEATH WATCH

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 TERMINATOR-3
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2
3 (DOLBY) TOMB RADER-2
4 TERMINATOR-3

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 JACKASS THE MOVIE
2 (DOLBY) TOMB RADER-2
3 (DTS) TOMB RADER-2
4 TERMINATOR-3

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 DEATH WATCH
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 DEATH WATCH
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
4 (DTS) CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
2 (DTS) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3 THE HUNTED

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) MASAMANG UGAT
2 SEX & ZEN 2
3 (DTS) WILD BUTTERFLY
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER-2
4 XEREX
5 JACKASS THE MOVIE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 MASAMANG UGAT

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 IMPOSTOR
3 DUMB & DUMBERER

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 WISH MASTER
2 THE HUNTED
3 (DTS) CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 (DOLBY) TERMINATOR-3

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 THE HUNTED
2 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0798

1 BIGAY HILIG
2 IMPOSTOR
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 TERMINATOR-3

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) TOMB RAIDER-2
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 (DTS ES) TOMB RAIDER-2
4 TERMINATOR-3

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 DUMB AND DUMBERER
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER 2
4 (DTS) TOMB RAIDER 2

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA

Level 4

Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

Schedule subject to change without prior notice

NOW SHOWING

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173868

1 WILD BUTTERFLY
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

SM CENTERPOINT

7149622 -7161416

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 IMPOSTOR
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8 WILD BUTTERFLY
9 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
10 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 IMPOSTOR
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 3
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 MASAMANG UGAT
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 TERMINATOR 3
9 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
10 WILD BUTTERFLY
11 DOWN WITH LOVE
12 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8 IMPOSTOR
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 WILD BUTTERFLY
11 DOWN WITH LOVE
12 MASAMANG UGAT

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6329401

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8 THE HUNTED
9 IMPOSTOR
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED
12 WILD BUTTERFLY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 TERMINATOR 3

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1 BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 IMPOSTOR
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 WILD BUTTERFLY
7 TERMINATOR 3
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
9 MASAMANG UGAT
10 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 THE HUNTED
4 JACKASS
5 28 DAYS LATER
6 MASAMANG UGAT
7 TERMINATOR 3
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 THE HUNTED
2 RESERVED
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 28 DAYS LATER
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 RESERVED
8 THE HOURS

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 JACKASS
6 TERMINATOR 3

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY DAVAO

2976999

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 MUNTING TINIG
5 PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 THE HUNTED
3 28 DAYS LATER
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8876

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
12:15 FS/12:45 MF/3:10/
9:55 LFS/10:25 LMF/12:20 END

2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11:05 MF/1:20/3:45/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 • Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
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NOW SHOWING

Galleria

632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX TOMB RAIDER
12:20, 2:45,
5:10, 7:35, 10:00

2 JACKASS THE MOVIE - 10:50,1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,9:50
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE - 10:45,1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00
4 TOMB RAIDER 2 - 11:50,2:15,4:40,7:05,9:30
5 TOMB RAIDER 2 - 10:25,12:50,3:15,5:40,8:05,10:30
6 DOWN WITH LOVE - 10:50,1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,9:50
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2 - 11:30,1:35,3:40,5:45,7:50,9:55
8 BANGKOK HAUNTED - 10:45,1:30,4:15,7:00,9:50
9 IMPOSTOR - 10:50,1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,9:50
10 TERMINATOR 3 - 10:50,1:00,3:10,5:20,7:30,9:50

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita

536 -7809- 12

1 TOMB RAIDER - 10:15,12:35,3:00,5:25,7:50,10:10
2 TERMINATOR 3 - 10:15,12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
3 DOWN WITH LOVE - 10:15,12:30,2:45,5:00,7:15
4 TOMB RAIDER - 11:05,1:30,3:55,6:20,8:45
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED - 11:00,1:35,4:10,6:45,9:40
6 LIZZIE MCGUIRE10:15,12:30,2:45,5:00,7:15,9:40
7 TOMB RAIDER - 11:40,2:05,4:30,6:55,9:20

Metro East - Marcos hway

682-8193
682-8199
682-8280

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 TOMB RAIDER 2
8 SABIK

Novaliches

935-3229-31

1 TOMB RAIDER
2 IMPOSTOR
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 DOWN WITH LOVE
5 TOMB RAIDER 2
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 WILD BUTTERFLY
8 CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Malabon Citisquare

288-0985 / 288-2575

1 TOMB RAIDER
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 SABIK

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp.

(045)875-1927
(045)961-5270

1 TOMB RAIDER
2 THE GURU
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 SHADOW OF VAMPIRE
6 TOMB RAIDER

Imus

(046) 471-6188
(046) 875-3838

1 TOMB RAIDER
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 WILD BUTTERFLY
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 SABIK

Sta. Rosa Laguna

(049)837-0907

1 TOMB RAIDER
2 JACKASS
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 TOMB RAIDER

Bacolod

(034) 441-0453
(034) 441-0458-59

1 TOMB RAIDER
2 PIGLET BIG MOVIE
3 IMPOSTOR
4 TERMINATOR 3
5 DANCER IN THE DARK
6 TUMITIBOK...KUMIKIROT

Iloilo

(033) 336-8070/78

1 TOMB RAIDER
2 28 DAYS LATER
3 BABAE SA VIP ROOMS
4 TOMB RAIDER
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 THE HOURS

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Three outstanding British films

From page A25

which turns out to be more of a nightmare, because its previous owner (**Stephen Dorff**) returns from prison, and insists on getting his home back.

"Under the Tuscan Sun"—**Diane Lane** stars as an American lawyer who quits her stressful job and travels to Italy, looking for a new life. She gets more than she bargained for!

"Veronica Guerin"—Cate Blanchett is cast as a courageous journalist who covers the crime beat in Dublin, Ireland, in the turbulent '90s, when powerful drug lords battled for control. Guerin's brutal murder in 1996 made her a legend, forced a dramatic revision of Ireland's laws and led to the arrest of some top officials.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 4	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	BANGKOK HANUTED
Ali 7	DEATH WATCH

ARANETA COLISEUM

JULY 31	UAAP GAMES
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
AUG 03	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 7	UAAP GAMES
AUG 9	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
B	TOMB RAIDER 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAGI-BIG
CINEMA-2	JACKASS
CINEMA-3	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-6	WILD BUTTERFLY
CINEMA-7	BAD INSTINCT
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-12	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-14	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HAUNTED
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	HUNTED
CINEMA 3	JACKASS
CINEMA 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

THEATRE MALL
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	Lara CRof TOMB RAIDER 2 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 P13
CINEMA 2	Lara CRof TOMB RAIDER 2 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00 P13

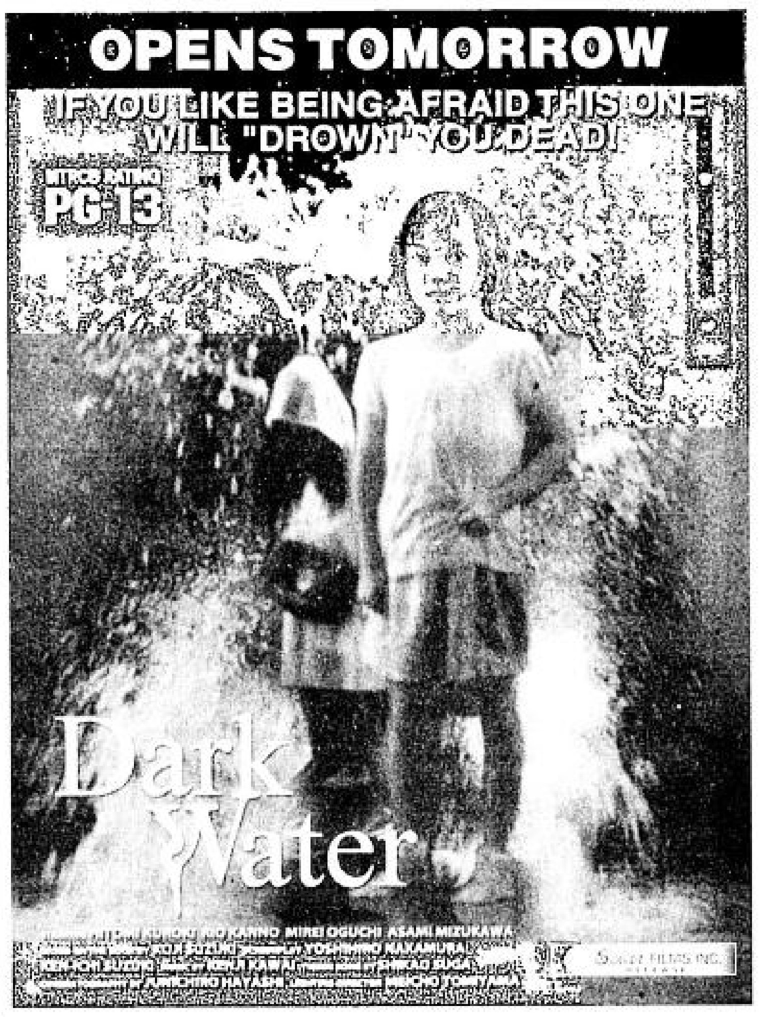
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

AUG 1 2003	PAOLO SANTOS AcoustiCc Revelation	8.30PM
AUG 8.9.15.16 22 23 29.30 2003	GARY V HITS MUSIC MUSEUM	9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

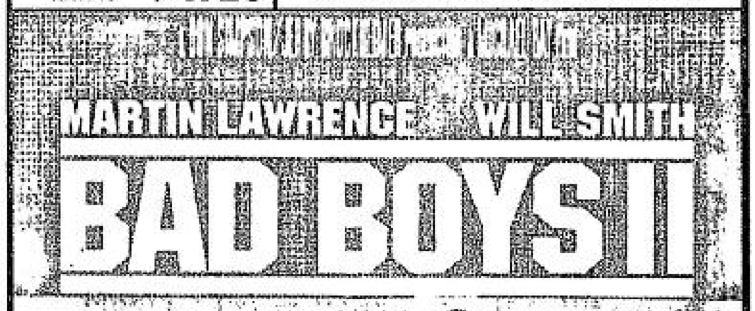
OPENS TOMORROW
IF YOU LIKE BEING AFRAID THIS ONE WILL "DROWN" YOU DEAD!


MTRCB RATING
PG-13
Dark Water
HITOMI KUROKI RIO KANNO MIREI OGUCHI ASAMI MIZUKAWA
KOJI SUZUKI
YOSHIHIRO NAKAMURA
KENICHI SUZUKI
KENJI KAWAI
SHIKAO SUGA
JUNICHIRO HAYASHI

ULTIMATE ACTION! TODO NA 'TO!
SASABOG BUKAS!

From the Director of PEARL HARBOR and ARMAGEDDON,
a new multi-million $ movie packed with outrageous Action & Stunts

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 Strictly for 13 years of age and up


MARTIN LAWRENCE WILL SMITH
BAD BOYS II

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS TOMORROW EXCLUSIVELY AT
ArtFilm
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DOUBLE VISION

TONY LEUNG KA-FAI DAVID MORSE RENE LIU

DOUBLE VISION

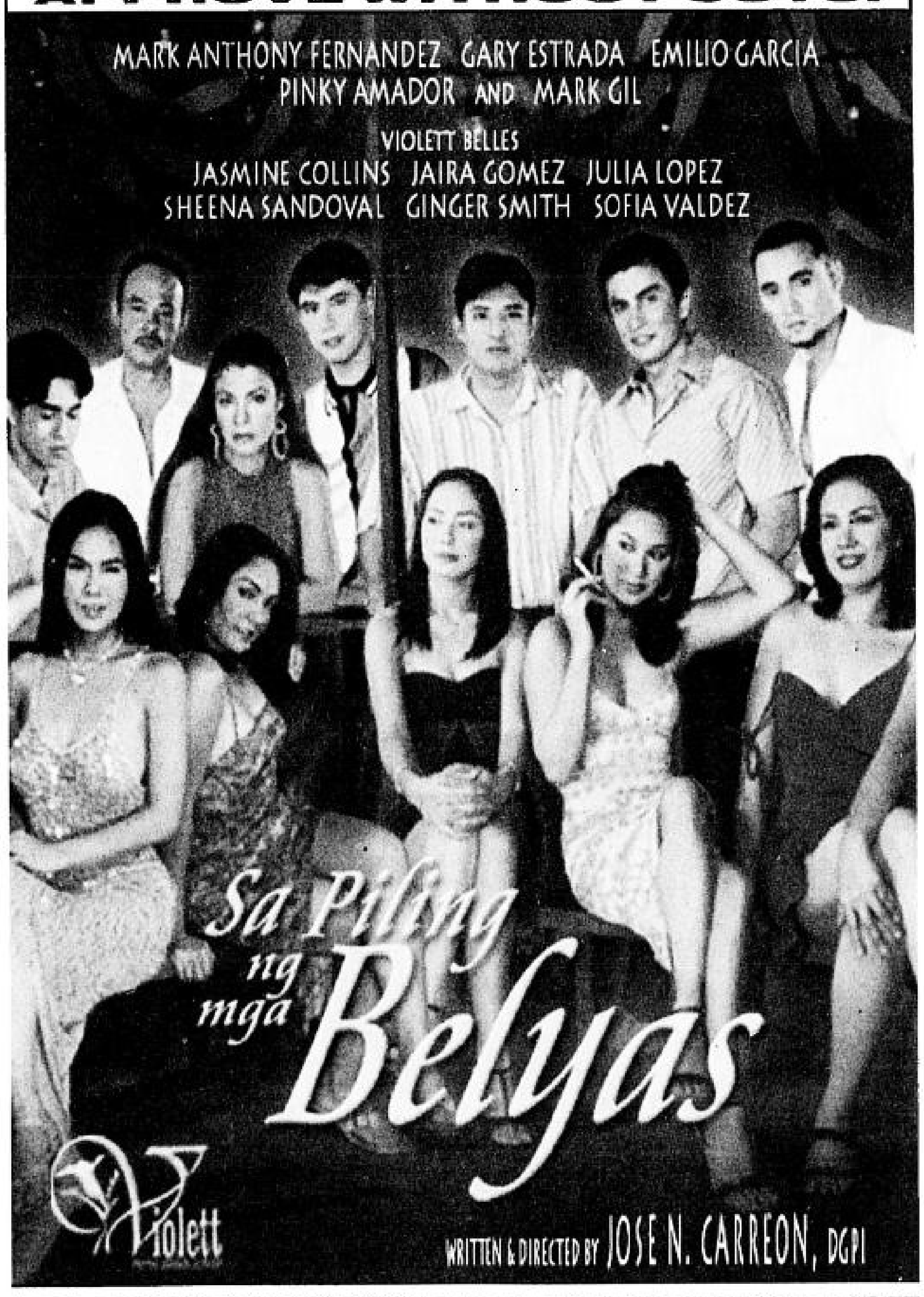
Two men from opposite sides of the world must work together to explain the unexplainable.

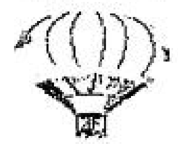
- A wealthy businessman accused of spilling toxic waste into the ocean is discovered dead in his office. Although the room is completely dry, he is believed to have drowned.
- A beautiful mistress of a government official has been burned to death in her home, although there are no signs of fire anywhere.
- A priest known for transporting illegal weapons is found in his bed, disemboweled, although there are no signs of struggle.

To solve these grisly crimes, the Taiwanese government is forced to enlist the help of an American FBI agent (David Morse, "The Green Mile", "Dancer In The Dark"). He is teamed with a troubled local cop (Tony Leung, "The Lover") and together they must do the impossible. Their journey will lead them into Taiwan's darkest corners and to an ancient cult in search of immortality.

NOKIA INQUIRER

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
OPENS TOMORROW!
APPROVE WITHOUT CUTS.


MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ GARY ESTRADA EMILIO GARCIA
PINKY AMADOR AND MARK GIL
VIOLETT BELLES
JASMINE COLLINS JAIRA GOMEZ JULIA LOPEZ
SHEENA SANDOVAL GINGER SMITH SOFIA VALDEZ
Sa Piling ng mga Belyas
Violett
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOSE N. CARREON, DGPI



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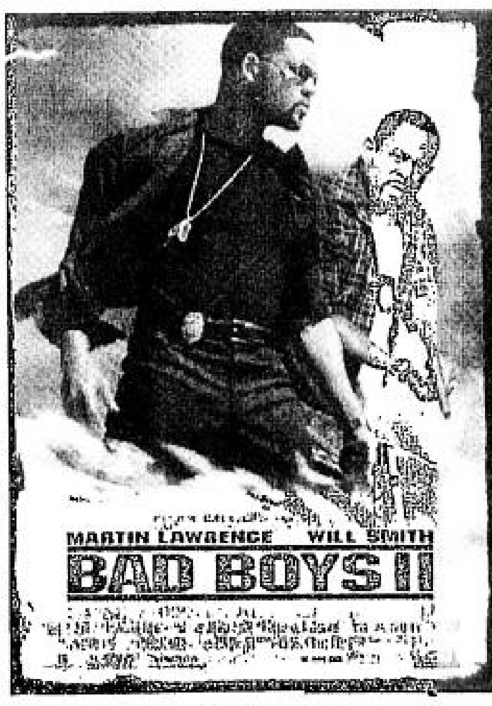
MTRCB RATING: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

EXPERIENCE IT BEST ONLY AT AYALA CINEMAS

TOMB RAIDER
LARA CROFT TOMB RAIDER-THE CRADLE OF LIFE


MARTIN LAWRENCE WILL SMITH
BAD BOYS II

AYALA CINEMAS
The Boys are back at Ayala Cinemas on July 30!
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
Experience it best only at Ayala Cinemas
COLUMBIA PICTURES

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Three outstanding British films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE 2003 Cine Europa filmfest unreels from Sept. 18 to 28 at SM Megamall. Three British movies will be screened at the festival, and a striking, must-see troika they are, too:

"The Magdalene Sisters" is a controversial production top-billed by **Geraldine McEwan**, **Anne-Marie Duff**, **Eileen Walsh** and **Dorothy Duffy**. It exposes what went on behind the walls of the Magdalene Asylums in Ireland, which were run by the Sisters of Mercy.

Young girls were sent there by families or orphanages, and once there, were imprisoned and sent to work in laundries, where they could "atone for their sins." Tragically, they worked unpaid 364 days a year, and were starved, humiliated, beaten and raped.

The film focuses on four of the 30,000 women detained in the Magdalene laundries—for having children out of wedlock, being too pretty, or too ugly, too clever, or simple-minded, or for just being orphans.

Peter Mullan's film is a harrowing tale about a dark period of religious oppression. Other players include **Nora-Jane Noone**, **Mary Murray**, **Britta Smith** and **Chris Simpson**.

Similarly outstanding and topical is "Deathwatch." Set in the trenches during World War 1, the film follows the laborious progress of the surviving members of Y Company. After a catastrophic offensive, they find themselves lost in a gas cloud until they find a seemingly deserted network of German trenches.

They dig in, but as tension mounts within the group and hope of rescue dims, they realize that the place has a power of its own.

Driven to the edge by the atmosphere of death and the phantoms they sense around them, they turn on each other.

Only the youngest company member (**Jamie Bell**) can see that they are being given choices that could lead either to their survival or demise.

Finally, "Charlotte Gray" stars the gifted **Cate Blanchett**, **Billy Crudup**, **Michael Gambon** and **Rupert Penry-Jones**, and is directed by **Gillian Armstrong**.

Set in Nazi-occupied France at the height of World War II, "Charlotte Gray" tells the compelling story of a young Scottish woman who works for the French Resistance, in the hope of rescuing her lover, a missing RAF pilot.

These films will have moveover screenings at SM Cebu from Oct. 3 to 5.

Writing contest

IN COMMEMORATION of the 20th anniversary of the martyrdom of Sen. **Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino**, a writing contest is being held to focus on the relevance of Ninoy's sacrifice and patriotism to our changing times. Contest organizers are radio programs "NTA at GMA" and "Radyo Balintataw," in cooperation with the Chino Roces Foundation and the Spirit of Edsa Foundation.

Entries can either be essays or poems, written in English or Filipino, and should be submitted on or before Aug. 13. Call 931-0109 for details. Cash prizes: P10,000 for first prize, P7,000 for second, and P3,000 for third. Winners will be announced on Aug 19.

Potential blockbusters

BUENA Vista International has lined up these potential blockbusters for the second half of 2003: "Once Upon A time in Mexico"—Director **Robert Rodriguez** returns with the mythic gun-slinging hero, El Mariachi (**Antonio Banderas**) in the final installment of the Mariachi/Desperado trilogy. **Willem Dafoe** and **Johnny Depp** also star.

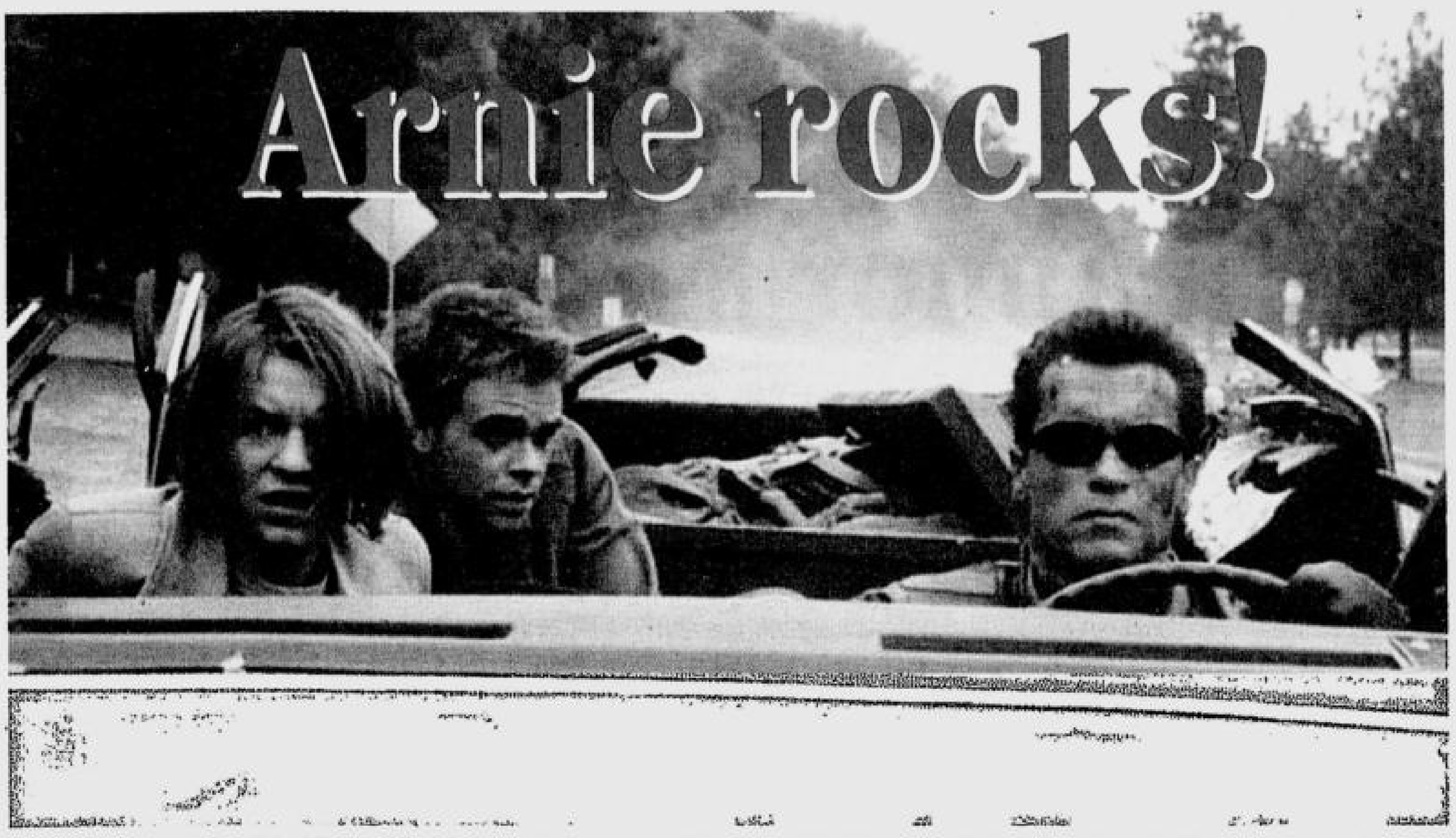
"Freaky Friday"—In this rollicking comedy, a teenage tomboy (**Lindsay Lohan**) and her widowed mother (**Jamie Lee Curtis**) are constantly at odds, and wish they could be someone else. They get what they want: They exchange bodies, and learn what it's like to be in each other's shoes.

"Calendar Girls"—**Julie Walters** and **Helen Mirren** star in this true story about 11 British women, who pose nude for a calendar to raise money for research on leukemia and Hodgkin's disease. The calendar becomes a national bestseller, spawning dozens of imitators around the world.

"Cold Creek Manor"—A couple (**Dennis Quaid** and **Sharon Stone**) and their children relocate to their dream house in the country,

THREE/ A24

Arnie rocks!



ANTICLIMACTIC after "T2," "Rise of the Machines," with (from left) Danes and Stahl, is nevertheless unpredictable, bittersweet, thunderous.

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

AGING but still rocking, action star Arnold Schwarzenegger is back as the stoic cyborg Terminator in the third installment of the uber-popular franchise of the same name.

However, "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" doesn't bring back the director of the first two action-packed flicks, James "King of the World" Cameron.

Instead, Jonathan Mostow ("U-571", "Breakdown") takes the reins on this latest and probably last part of the blockbuster series.

Also absent is Linda Hamilton, an integral part of the previous stories. Her shy Sarah Connor character was protected by a time-travelling soldier (played by Michael Biehn) from being killed by a man-shaped machine (Schwarzenegger) programmed to do just that in the first movie.

Curvaceous threat

Sarah bore a son, destined rebel leader John Connor (Edward Furlong), a pivotal figure in the man-versus-machine war. A powerful new automaton, T-1000 (Robert Patrick) was sent back in time to finish the job in "T2: Judgment Day," but was defeated with the help of a reprogrammed Terminator.

In "Rise of the Machines", John is now an adult (Nick Stahl), still reeling from helping avert apocalypse as a boy more than a decade ago. Changing the course of history allows him some peace and anonymity, or so he thought: A new time-flung, smart killing-machine arrives, the T-X, this time ensconced in a human female guise (Kristanna Loken).

Again, a familiar good-guy Terminator returns, to protect John and another human, veterinarian Kate Brewster (Claire Danes). The pursuing T-X has the abilities of the shape-changing T-1000, but is configured to do much more. Fleeing from this curvaceous but unyielding threat, John and Kate must figure out their connection to prevent the machine-ruled future wasteland from finally coming to pass.

The absence of Cameron automatically meant really big shoes to fill. Mostow is capable, but the action scenes here, while louder and somewhat bigger, are nothing we haven't seen before. The long, expensive sequences border on over-compensation.

Still, it feels like a mixed déjà vu. The story is largely both the first and second movie combined, which is acceptable because it's given a new climax, and is payoff that works, making it important to the whole Terminator mythos.

Hamilton and her character are much missed. "T2" transformed her into a tough, take-no-android-crap heroine who was almost like a Terminator herself.

The saga revolved around her, and her absence here makes it an altogether different experience.

The central figure is now John Connor, written as a smart but complacent character possessing none of his mother's paranoia or combat skills.

Chaos formula

Danes is the new character doing all the screaming and crying, but she doesn't fill the void left by Hamilton, nor is she meant to. Her addition is intriguing, and it does move the story in a new direction. It almost sounds too convenient when her importance and connections are finally revealed, but we accept them anyway.

It adheres to the chaos-filled formulas of the preceding parts, so there's undeniably very little danger felt on the audience's end. Of course, big brawny Arnold tries to save the day, trades punches and bullets with the pouty-lipped *Terminatrix du jour*, babysitting a pair of humans who'll most likely get cuts, some bruises, and dirt all over them before the movie ends.

But where all these lead to is very much worth seeing.

Hokey SF

The Terminator has an unintentional sense of humor now, thanks to a program enabling him to deadpan shrink psychobabble. Big changes in technology since the last film are also integrated into the story, like cellular phones, the Internet, and nanotech machines.

But its science fiction aspect is still hokey, and we're still wondering: If the machines can breach the time barrier, why not send a T-X or a T-1000 before Sarah Connor was ever born?

And isn't it more logical to send more than one robot assassin to get a job done quickly and efficiently? Time-travel scenarios will always have holes, but don't expect explanations for the most obvious ones here.

Having this follow-up to Cameron's excellent "T2: Judgment Day" is anticlimactic, but it is able to work, surprisingly. Not seeing Sarah Connor here is almost akin to having the Newt character disappear in "Alien 3."

But then again, while it's simpler than its predecessor in many ways that matter, "Rise of the Machines" doesn't cop out.

And it satisfyingly closes the Terminator arc the way that it should: in an unpredictable, bittersweet way, and with thunderous panache.

Kris, bag lady

KRIS Aquino, many people's favorite female TV host ("Game Ka Na Ba," "The Buzz," "Morning Girls"), is an effective product endorser because, among other reasons, when she says something is good, people believe her. She is also known for her keen sense of fashion.

The makers of Leonardo bags saw these qualities and tapped Kris to be their new endorser and image model. Leonardo bags VP for marketing Erick Javier says, "She is credible, she's popular and she is one of the few movie and TV personalities who have a keen sense of fashion."

Leonardo bags will have a new collection designed by Kris herself. Leonardo was named the "Outstanding Ladies Bag Brand" at the 2003 Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards, conferred by the Asia-Pacific Awards Council and the National Consumer Affairs Foundation.

AQUINO, bag designer

A 'victim' is finally vindicated

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

BEING on television may seem like a glamorous job, but beyond all the glitz there lies some uncertainty as to how long your show will last.

No matter how good you are, all TV shows have a life span. The ever fickle audience can only take so much. Only few TV people have genuine staying power, so the entry of new talents may cause a certain degree of alarm if you are still trying to create your niche in the industry. Nobody is indispensable. Unlike in other jobs, on TV, you sometimes retire before you even reach your prime.

Although doing an on-cam job is highly rewarding, it also entails high maintenance. You don't only have to do good, you must look good even on days when you don't exactly feel good. There's also a lot of power play behind the scenes, and most of the time, stars are mere pawns of the industry's kings.

One woman who has been very visible on TV all these years is newscaster **Thelma Dumpit**. She has been a "victim" of network politics and now she is finally vindicated.

I am printing parts of her letter here. May her story inspire other media practitioners, or any diligent worker for that matter, to keep fighting for something that is rightfully theirs in the first place. *Apres tout*, real talent isn't coterminous with any contract. Who else is better qualified to be the best you can be but yourself?

"Dear Dolly,

"After three long years, the NLRC finally handed down its decision on a case I filed against ABC 5 for illegal dismissal (*Inquirer Entertainment, July 28)*. The verdict: ABC 5 is to pay P2.6 million in back wages and reinstate me to my former position as main anchor of 'Balitang Balita' without loss of seniority.

"This is really a victory for the thousands of other workers in the industry who have the talent, dedication and devotion to work but who have no security of tenure. But only half the battle has been won here, for there remain many others still in the same state.

"I am surprised why none of our lawmakers, particularly those who used to be with broadcast, have taken up the cudgels for these people. I think this is a good time to talk about this since the Labor Code is now up for review at the House of Representatives precisely because of the numerous complaints about hiring people on a contractual or talent basis. While it is admittedly an industry practice, it doesn't make it legal. This is plain and simple circumvention of the law.

"I have been in broadcast for the last 20 years and, I'm proud to say, with a name unsullied and my integrity intact. I love my job and have always striven for excellence.

"Thanks!" –**Thelma Dumpit**

Retro revolution

I HAVE always been a hippie. I believe that your soul never grows old if you grew up with rock and roll. That's why I'm raring to watch "Amazing Retro Revolution" on Friday, Aug. 1, at the Le Pavilion on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

With the retro wave continuing its comeback, retro raving still gets people of all ages grooving. But not all retro parties and retro bands are created equal. If you want the best retro party of this decade, you better be at the "Amazing Retro Revolution." It's one big jamming session with bands famous for their takes on music from the '60s and '70s.

And the theme of the party will make you feel like you're attending your Junior-Senior prom!

Just who will be playing? The legendary RJ, for one. From RJ & the Riots in the '60s, RJ has evolved into RJ & Friends.

Rockin' Revival breathes new life into retro staples. The Moonstrucks will put in an easygoing mood, led by **Toto**, one of the pillars of Philippine rock and roll.

And Flinstones & the Gang can transform any happening into a party.

Between regular sets, the Star Band will take center stage to further titillate the crowd. **Tirso Cruz**, **Michael de Mesa**, **Ricky Davao**, **Christopher de Leon**, **Bobot Mortiz**, among others, will be singing oldies but goodies.

Tickets are available at Sarabia Optical outlets at the Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Place Manila, Greenbelt Mall 1, Megamall, SM City, One Luna Lifestyle Center Eastwood City, Dish, Strumms, Grilla and Famous Desserts/Bar Greenbelt 3.

For more details, call 634-8013 and 633-1645.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

Nora Aunor movie to open...

From page A25

writers and the director (Perez), have a tall order to deliver a good film," Gracio said.

Former child stars Snooky Serna and Aiza Seguerra will co-star with Aunor in "Bituin, Buwan at Araw," the scriptwriter said.

Gracio claimed that since the Metro film fest screening committee announced its lineup last July 17, the offices of Angora Films have been getting calls from Aunor fans.

"They wanted to stage a rally in support of *Ate* Guy," said the scriptwriter of the new Aunor movie.

The chosen 10 entries in the December film festival are Star Cinema's "Milan," Regal Entertainment's "Mano Po 2," Basfilms/Unitel Productions' "Crying Ladies," Octoarts Films' "Fantastikman," Viva Films' "Filipinas, May Isang Ina," Teamwork Productions' "Homecoming," Canary Films' "Malikmata," Seiko Films' "Bridal Shower," Premiere Entertainment Productions' "Captain Barbell" and MAQ Productions' "Gagamboy."

Aunor has been a perennial participant in the Metro Manila film fest. She has won six best actress awards for her performances in festival films: "Ina Ka ng Anak Mo," 1979; "Himala," 1982; "Bulaklak ng City Jail," 1984; "Andrea, Paano Ba ang Maging Isang Ina," 1990; "Ang Totoong Buhay ni Pacita M.," 1991; and "Muling Umawit ang Puso," 1995.

She also won the best performer trophy for 1978's "Atsay," besting rival Vilma Santos who starred in the late Lino Brocka's "Rubia Servios."

Aunor was last seen playing a deaf-mute in Joel Lamangan's "Sidhi" in 1991, with Albert Martinez as her cheating husband and Glydel Mercado as the other woman he brought home.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor Louie C. Camino

Nora Aunor movie to open before December film fest

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

THE MOVIE that will star Nora Aunor and will be directed by Elwood Perez but which failed to make it to the Metro Manila Film Festival this December, will start filming in the first week of August and will be shown two weeks before the festival starts on Christmas Day.

The film's scriptwriter, Jerry Gracio, said he and another writer, Jovy Zarate, have done some revisions on the screenplay of the Aunor starrer, titled "Bituin, Buwan at Araw."

"It's going to be less of a musical now," said Gracio. "It's a discourse on our search for happiness, on what makes us happy."

Gracio, who has won writing honors from the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards and the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines, said "Bituin, Buwan at Araw" is Angora Films' way of paying homage to the superstar, who turned 50 last May 21.

Last May 17, Aunor celebrated her birthday in advance with a concert at the Araneta Coliseum, which coincided with the conclusion of her top-rating *teleserye*, "Bituin," on ABS-CBN.

"She deserves a good project, so we, the

NORA/ A25

HOMAGE to a superstar is what the new movie is going to be. FILE PHOTO

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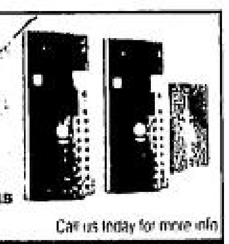

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S&P maintains RP rating despite mutiny

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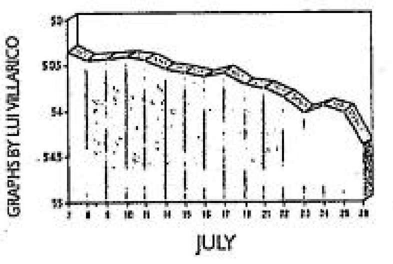

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As of 5 p.m., July 28, 2003

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As of 5 p.m., July 28, 2003

GOLD: $361.50-362.00

per ounce Hong Kong, July 28, 2003

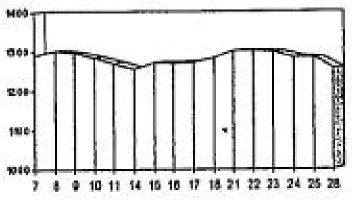
STOCK MARKET

Stocks slide

SHARES slumped yesterday as investors scrambled to exit the market after a mutiny by nearly 300 soldiers during the weekend, but losses were pared by the close as some light bargain-hunting emerged. *Reuters*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JULY



STANDARD and Poors (S&P) said yesterday it was maintaining its "BB" long-term sovereign debt rating for the Philippines despite the failed weekend mutiny against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Takahira Ogawa, the agency's Asia-Pacific director for sovereign ratings, said in a briefing in Singapore the revolt by some 300 soldiers who seized a commercial complex in the Makati financial district might not be significant in the long term.

S&P looks at the quality of the government and the size of the mutiny was not significant, he told journalists.

"We don't see it (affecting) the debt payments of the Philippines," he said.

But he added that "if there are more developments that call for a re-rating then we will review it." The mutiny might have an effect on foreign exchange and foreign direct investment, but not so much on the credit rating, Ogawa said.

The mutiny ended late Sunday after mediators convinced the rebels, who complained of low pay and corruption in the military and demanded the resignation of the President and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, to return to their barracks.

The government has vowed to investigate those involved in the military as well as politicians suspected of supporting or instigating the mutiny.

Under the credit rating agency's system of grading debt payment capacity, a BB rating from S&P is given to bonds which are just below investment grade and are considered to have speculative elements.

In the local market, bid rates for peso-denominated government debt paper rose yesterday after the failed weekend mutiny, but trading remained normal.

"We did not see panic sellers. It's a lot more calm than what we initially expected," one trader said.

"Bids went up on the average by 15 basis points but offer rates rose minimally. Because of what happened, spreads just widened. The market also took its cue from the forex market."

The peso fell more than one percent to 54.60 to the US dollar early yesterday, its weakest level in four months. At the midday break in local trade, it was quoted at 54.305 against Friday's close of 54.01.

Another dealer said players in the domestic debt market focused on three- and five-year paper, with the four-year treasury bond bought at 9.47 percent.

"There were few successful transactions," the second dealer said.

Players also waited for President Macapagal's State of the Nation address later yesterday, which was expected to outline the government's response to the weekend rebellion.

"I'm expecting that, barring any more events, bids will stabilize five to 10 basis points plus or minus from where we are right now," one trader said.

Dealers said the yield of the two-year treasury bond should rise at today's auction given the uptick in secondary market rates.

"The market will take advantage of the situation and we're looking at a range of 8.625 to 9 percent for the two-year paper," a trader said. "But I won't be surprised if the Treasury would reject the bids."

The Bureau of Treasury will offer today P3 billion worth of fresh series two-year bonds.

The Treasury last offered an old series of two-year paper on March 4, which carried a coupon rate of 8.25 percent. The paper fetched an average rate of 9.615 percent at the auction. *AFP, Reuters*

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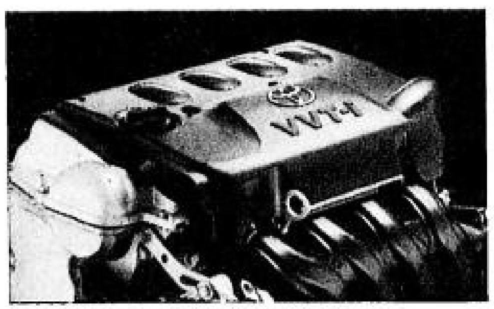

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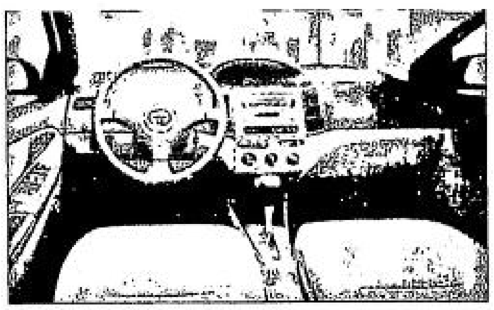

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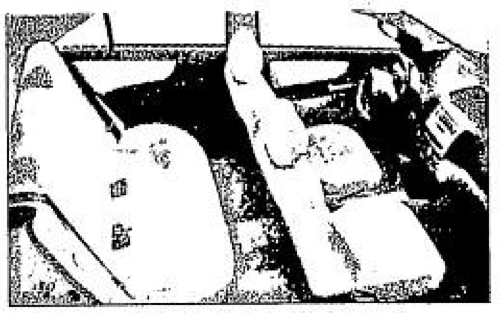

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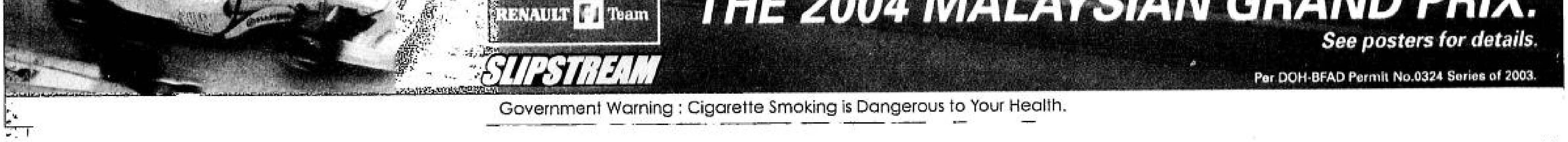

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Asian stocks at 13-month high

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks jumped yesterday, lifting a regional index to its best level in over a year on increasing confidence in a US economic rebound, but Philippine markets were shaken following a mutiny by nearly 300 soldiers.

A surprisingly strong US durable goods order report bolstered expectations of a recovery in Asia's main export market, although the dollar's gains on the data were limited as traders awaited more economic indicators out this week.

Oil fell before an Opec meeting and gold dropped. Japanese government bond (JGB) yields hit four-week lows.

Tokyo stocks jumped 2 percent to their best level in more than two weeks following the US data, which lifted blue chips on Wall Street to a five-week high on Friday.

Looking better

"Today's rise is partly the result of New York, but it's also based on the fact that there's a relative lack of worry about corporate earnings in Japan," said Hiroshi Sato, deputy director at Cosmo Securities.

The Nikkei average closed up 1.99 percent at 9,839.91, its strongest finish since July 10, with electronics maker Toshiba Corp. climbing 3.3 percent ahead of its earnings announcements later in the week.

Shares elsewhere in the region were looking even better in historical terms, with an MSCI index of Asia Pacific stocks ex-Japan up one percent at its highest level since June 2002.

"People are caught up with the good economic data from the United States," said Frederick Tsang, research director at China Everbright Group in Hong Kong, where the Hang Seng Index ended morning trade 1.9 percent higher.

Losses halved

Philippine stocks closed down 2.1 percent at a two-week low following a failed mutiny by soldiers who seized a complex in Manila and wired it with explosives.

But the market halved its opening loss after the 19-hour stand-off ended peacefully and some investors focused on recently improved economic fundamentals and prospects for strong second-quarter earnings. *(See related story on B1)*

Other markets

In other stock markets, South Korea advanced 1.8 percent, Taiwan gained 1.1 percent, Singapore added 1.1 percent and Australia rose two-thirds of a percent.

The euro slipped from three-week highs of around $1.1550 hit on Friday ahead of a key German business sentiment survey due at 0800 GMT. It was quoted at $1.1470, against $1.1512 late on Friday.

$ firming up

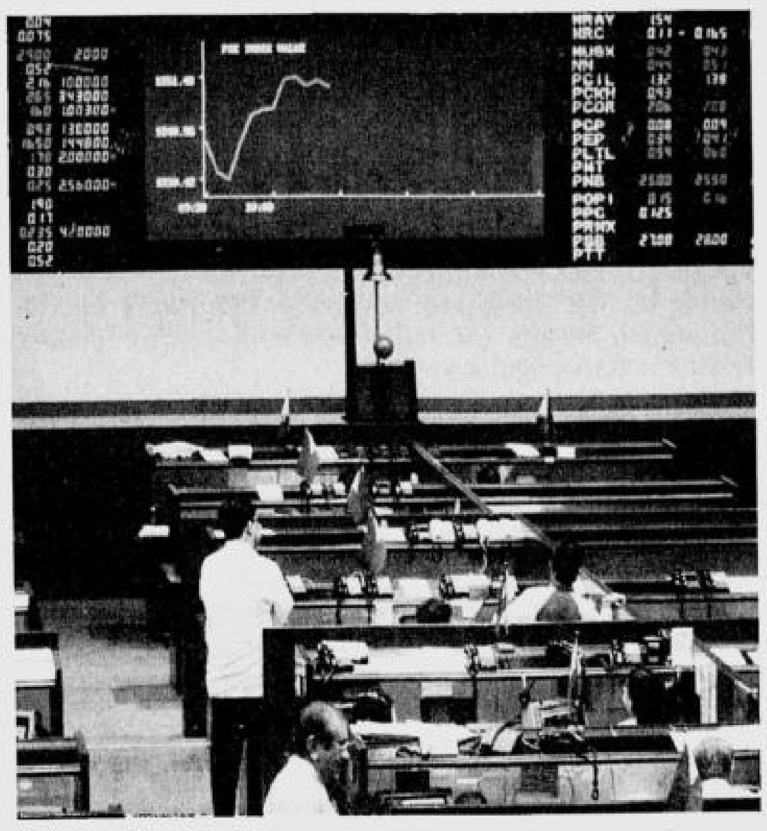
The dollar also firmed versus the yen but most traders stayed on the sidelines ahead of US indicators this week, including jobs data on Friday. The dollar stood at 119.11 yen, against 118.71 yen in late US trade on Friday.

Nymex crude oil futures fell, but trading was thin ahead of an Opec meeting on Thursday that is expected to leave output levels unchanged.

US light crude dropped 0.7 percent to $29.96 per barrel.

Gold dropped to $360.50 an ounce from $362.45 at the US close on Friday.

JGB prices posted solid gains as confidence improved that a rout of the market earlier in the month was over. The key five-year JGB yield hit a four-week low of 0.3 percent and 10-year future prices reached a four-week high. *Reuters*



BROKERS at the Philippine Stock Exchange trading floor make transactions as the main electronic board indicates a shaky start for the market yesterday. Financial markets took a beating yesterday following a failed coup attempt, with analysts saying investors would closely watch out if any of the instigators would be punished. AFP

RP starts talks on $150-M ADB loan

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY will start negotiations with the Asian Development Bank this week for the second phase of the Non-Bank Financial Governance Program loan worth $150 million, Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong said.

Proceeds from the program loan will help cover the government's budget deficit this year, she said.

"We are now in the technical discussions. It's a program loan for budgetary support," Amatong said.

"It will be used for capital market development, the regulation and supervision by the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) of non-bank financial institutions," she said.

The government is negotiating that the loan be released in two tranches within three years and that the amount be repaid in 15 years, she said.

The ADB, for its part, has programmed the $150-million package as part of its country assistance strategy for the Philippines this year.

The program aims to promote the development of the non-bank financial sector by:

- strengthening the regulatory and policy framework for the development of viable institutions and properly functioning financial markets;
- strengthening the SEC's enforcement capacities, supervisory skills, and practices;
- improving transparency to protect investors from fraud, insolvency, or misconduct ; and
- facilitating the mobilization of domestic savings to increase supplies of funds while ensuring investor protection.

To achieve these objectives, the program seeks to establish an effective anti-money laundering regime, strengthen investor protection and confidence in the Philippine Stock Exchange and remove policy distortions and address fragmented regulatory framework to promote market efficiency and development.

The program likewise aims to:

- clearly define the SEC's supervisory responsibilities and enhance its monitoring and surveillance capacity;
- improve the quality of financial information disclosed to the market;
- strengthen prudential standards; and
- promote the development of collective investment vehicles and establish proper framework for investor protection.

Phinma sells 43% stake in kraft paper firm

THE PHINMA group has agreed to give up a 43-percent stake in kraft paper producer United Pulp and Paper Co. Inc. in favor of its joint venture partner, Siam Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd. of Thailand.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Phinma unit Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. said the company had agreed to sell 47.83 million shares in UPCC for P5 per share.

In a separate disclosure to the Thailand Stock Exchange, SPPC said it would acquire a total of 56 million shares of United Pulp for about 220 million baht or P280 million, raising its stake in the Philippine company to 86 percent from 43 percent.

SPPC also said it would comply with the Philippine requirement to make a tender offer for the remaining shares held by minority shareholders of UPPC.

Bacnotan and SPPC have set the financial closing of the deal for July 31.

The deal will allow the Phinma group to focus on its core business (cement manufacturing) and pave the way for SPPC's regional expansion.

UPPC, which was established in 1970, has an annual production capacity of 200,000 tons of kraft paper. With a strong domestic customer base, the company controls about 35 percent of the Philippine market.

UPPC's assets are estimated at P5.2 billion as against liabilities of P4.6 billion. In the first semester, it reported P1.6 billion in sales and operating losses of P40 million.

SPPC said its takeover of UPPC would benefit the local firm in terms of a range of synergies, such as regional procurement of raw materials, improvement in overall productivity and sharing of market knowledge and manufacturing management expertise. Over the long term, it plans to improve UPCC's cost efficiencies through the construction of a coal-fired boiler unit.

UPPC is also expected to trim its financial expenses through the refinancing of its outstanding debt. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PLDT Internet system to be opened to ISPs

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has agreed to open its high-speed Internet infrastructure to independent Internet service providers (ISPs) on the condition that a pending case against it is withdrawn.

"We agreed that the case should be withdrawn first before we sit down and talk. Our equipment is already in place. It is ready for commercial operations by Aug. 1," PLDT board member Ray Espinosa said in an interview.

The Philippine Internet Services Organization (Piso), a group of independent ISPs, filed a complaint against PLDT late last year for alleged discriminatory and predatory pricing, and its refusal to open its digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure to other players.

PLDT denied both charges. It said that it had a fair pricing scheme. It said it was willing to open its DSL infrastructure but it just did not have the technical capability to do so at the time the complaint was filed.

"We are willing to share that infrastructure at mutually agreed terms and conditions," the company said in an earlier statement.

Petron earnings hit ₱1.28B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL oil giant Petron Corp. yesterday reported that its earnings for the first semester went up by 4 percent to P1.28 billion, from P1.23 million for the same period last year.

Petron outgoing president Motassim A. Al-Ma'ashouq told stockholders during their annual meeting that the improved earnings were due to rising sales volume, particularly exports.

Al-Ma'ashouq said year-to-date sales volume increased by 6.8 percent to 25.2 million barrels worth P44.3 million in the first six months this year, from 23.6 million barrels worth P42 million in the same period last year.

He said exports shot up by 48 percent in the first half to 4.3 million from 2.9 million barrels in 2002. This was equivalent to 17 percent of the total volume sold by Petron in the first half of 2003, up from 12.3 percent in 2002.

"We pursued profitable export opportunities to augment local marketing efforts and were successful in developing a niche in the international markets," Al-Ma'ashouq said.

The export growth came from the sale of straight-run fuel oil or SRFO, which a company official said went to markets in Australia, Japan, South Korea and China.

SRFO is used as fuel for power generation as well as raw material for machine lubricants.

Also, the official said the oil refiner continued to "apply significant cost discipline in our business resulting in savings for the company."

Petron's operating expenses decreased by 5.9 percent to P1.8 billion in the first semester of this year, from P1.9 billion in the same period last year.

The country's largest oil refiner posted a net profit of P2.9 billion for 2002, up by 142 percent from P1.25 billion in 2001.

Audited figures showed that Petron stockholders enjoyed a 16-percent return on equity by end-2002.

Government records show that Petron held 34.3 percent of the local oil market.

INTEREST RATES

July 28, 2003
MART 1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 28-Jul-03	MART1 25-Jul-03
1 Month	6.5554	6.2071
3 Months	6.5429	6.2161
6 Months	7.1167	6.8067
1 Year	7.6083	7.3483
2 Years	8.925	8.675
3 Years	9.6517	9.4917
4 Years	10.05	9.9233
5 Years	10.2817	10.1286
7 Years	11.12	10.9933
10 Years	11.56	11.345
20 Years	12.0617	11.95
25 Years	12.3883	12.2983

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 28, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19	18.75	19	104,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	47.5	45.5	47.5	844,000
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	19	19	19	19	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	33.5	32.5	33.5	63,300
First E-Bank Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30.5	31	212,700
Philippine National Bank	26	26	24.75	26	76,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14	14	13.5	14	41,300
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	19,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	23	22.25	22.5	85,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	304,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1555	1560	1555	1560	2,830
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.28	1.52	1.28	1.44	1,323,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1125	1155	1125	1150	6,590
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	20.25	19.5	20.25	35,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.7	0.68	0.7	2,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	660	630	650	109,840
Ipeople Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	350,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	7,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.033	12,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.56	0.6	13,110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	510	530	495	520	634,850
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	71,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12	12.25	11.5	12	960,900
Manila Electric Co. B	17.5	17.75	17.25	17.75	2,525,600
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.04	2.06	27,628,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	855,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	753,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.41	1,230,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	72,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29.5	29	29	111,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.5	17	16.25	17	742,600
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	50,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.3	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52	52.5	52	52	111,300
San Miguel Corp. B	61.5	63.5	61.5	63.5	77,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.8	7,413,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	152,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.04	3,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	40,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.74	1.8	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.77	0.69	0.77	57,320,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.2	480,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.06	0.065	0.06	0.065	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.35	0.29	0.33	15,740,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	16.5	16.75	16	16.25	2,217,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.12	0.135	1,720,000
Ionics Inc.	1.48	1.68	1.46	1.64	1,717,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.8	2,540,000
Keppel Holdings	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	30,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	3,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.77	0.73	0.77	2,860,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	150,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.32	17,200,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.43	0.4	0.42	6,780,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.165	0.15	0.165	750,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.11	3,500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	29,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	110,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	34,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.07	0.0825	3,900,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.25	16.5	16	16.5	116,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.56	0.58	4,680,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	650,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	1,130,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	750,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20	20.25	19.5	20.25	94,500
PLDT (10% PREF) Series T	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% PREF) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,400
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	15,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.1	6.6	12,570,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.25	810,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.205	0.185	0.2	9,720,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.25	16,070,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.04	1.08	24,664,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.27	0.235	0.25	5,780,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	3,470,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	25,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.16	722,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.2	7,256,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	20,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	20,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	11,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	80,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.0032	0.003	0.0032	20,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	220,000

DISCLOSURES

MIC Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 30, 10 a.m. at the 8/F of DPC Place, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. The company also announced that Ana Maria Cordero was appointed internal auditor.

***

LODESTAR Mining Corp. will change its name to Lodestar Corp.

***

ELECTED directors of **Metro Alliance Holdings & Equities Corp.** were Renato Magadia, Angel Umali, Elvira Ting, Kenneth Gatchalian, Rogelio Garcia, Ricardo Veloso and Lamberto Mercado.

***

DIVERSIFIED **Financial Network Inc.** will issue 23.6 million to 27.2 million primary common shares to its shareholders. Each shareholder will be entitled to one additional share for every two and a half shares held as of the record date which is to be announced later.

***

BANKARD Inc. announced the resignation of Valentin Araneta as director of the company. Armando Medina was elected to replace him.

***

CENTRO Escolar University declared a cash dividend of P0.10 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 14. The dividend is payable on Sept. 8.

***

INTERPORT Resources Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to Sept. 16.

***

BACNOTAN Consolidated Industries Inc. disclosed the sale of its over 47.8 million shares in United Pulp and Paper Co. Inc. at P5 per share to Siam Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

July 28, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.871384	1.000000	54.022000
Japan	Yen	JPY	0.008410	0.454300
United Kingdom	Pound	1.408069	1.615900	87.294100
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111733	0.128225	6.927000
Switzerland	Franc	0.647532	0.743108	40.144200
Canada	Dollar	0.624156	0.716281	38.694900
Singapore	Dollar	0.498503	0.572082	30.905000
Australia	Dollar	0.578147	0.663482	35.842600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.311486	2.652661	143.302100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.232375	0.266674	14.406300
Brunei	Dollar	0.497082	0.570451	30.816900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000117	0.006300
Thailand	Baht	0.020802	0.023872	1.289600
UAE	Dirham	0.237266	0.272287	14.709500
EMU	Euro	1.000000	1.147600	61.995600
Argentina	Peso	0.312324	0.358423	19.362700
Brazil	REAL	0.302249	0.346861	18.738100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134521	0.154376	8.339700
India	Rupee	0.018931	0.021725	1.173600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.229342	0.263193	14.218200
Mexico	New Peso	0.082713	0.094922	5.127900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510986	0.586407	31.678900
Norway	Kroner	0.120808	0.138639	7.489600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015120	0.017352	0.937400
South Africa	Rand	0.115818	0.132913	7.180200
Korea	Won	0.000739	0.000848	0.045800
Sweden	Kroner	0.108575	0.124601	6.731200
Syria	Pound	0.020748	0.023810	1.286300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025427	0.029180	1.576400
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000546	0.000627	0.033900

Oil eases; markets calm ahead of Opec meet

SINGAPORE—Oil prices dipped below $30 on Monday as Iraqi crude output slowly increased, but many traders stayed out of the market ahead of an Opec meeting later this week.

US benchmark crude was down 21 cents at $29.96 per barrel.

Prices are down about five percent from their highs in early July after hedge funds last week took profits from a rally that had pushed up crude nearly 25 percent since early May, traders said.

Traders were playing it safe ahead of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) meeting in Vienna on Thursday, although the producer cartel that controls half of the world's oil exports was not expected to change output levels.

Opec is likely to maintain its current ceiling of 25.4 million barrels per day (bpd) because prices have held in its $22-$28 target range, an Opec oil minister said on Sunday.

On Thursday the price of Opec's basket of crudes was $27.33 per barrel.

"The likelihood is that the meeting will continue the production ceiling as it is at present," UAE Petroleum & Mineral Resources Minister Obaid bin Saif al-Nasseri was quoted as saying by the United Arab Emirates state news agency WAM.

Traders said Opec was also counting on a return of oil exports from Iraq to keep prices capped.

Iraq's oil production has risen to just over one million bpd from steady levels of 800,000 bpd, a senior oil ministry official said on Sunday.

"I'd expect that to apply downward pressure on prices, but it's still a fairly precarious situation. All you need is one good hit on a pipeline and you're back to square one," said David Thurtell, commodities strategist at Commonwealth Bank in Sydney. *Reuters*

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Singapore Air to report first loss

SINGAPORE—Singapore Airlines Ltd is likely to post a maiden quarterly loss of S$387 million ($220 million) after SARS choked off travel demand, but analysts expect the carrier to swing back into profit quickly.

The world's second-largest passenger airline by market value after US budget carrier Southwest Airlines could either break even or post a small profit in the second half with the peak summer travel season in full swing and as business executives resume flying, they said.

"The middle part of this year has been pretty much wiped out and its going to be a pretty dismal performance," said Philip Wickham, analyst at ING Financial Markets. "But all that pent-up demand has come forward after traffic was put off because of SARS."

The 56 percent-state owned airline lost S$6 million a day in April and May as SARS and the Iraq war hit travel demand, forcing the carrier to cut wages, slash capacity by a third, and to axe nearly 600 staff—the largest lay-offs in its 56-year history.

Singapore Airlines and other regional carriers are starting to recover from the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) induced travel slump and have started restoring flights.

Chair Koh Boon Hwee said on the weekend the airline, which had cut nearly 300 weekly services in April and May, had restored some flights, but capacity would stay 12-15 percent below pre-SARS levels for the foreseeable future. *Reuters*

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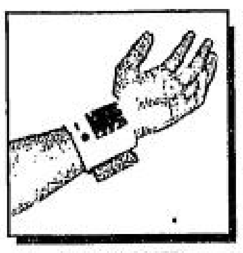

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GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1996-2129
AS OF JULY 28, 2003

		SELLING	BUYING
1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,400,000	1,100,000
2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,500,000	
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	600,000
4	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450,000	430,000
5	CAMP JOHN HAY	230,000	200,000
6	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		140,000
7	CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
8	CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	420,000	350,000
10	EASTRIDGE B		100,000
11	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		230,000
12	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,200,000
13	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
14	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF A/B	500,000/600,000	450,000/550,000
15	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB A/B/C	Please call	165,000
16	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	
17	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB A/B/C	Please call	Please call
18	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,300,000
19	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	775,000	
20	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF	720,000	650,000
21	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	120,000
22	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	300,000	280,000
23.	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB		6,200,000

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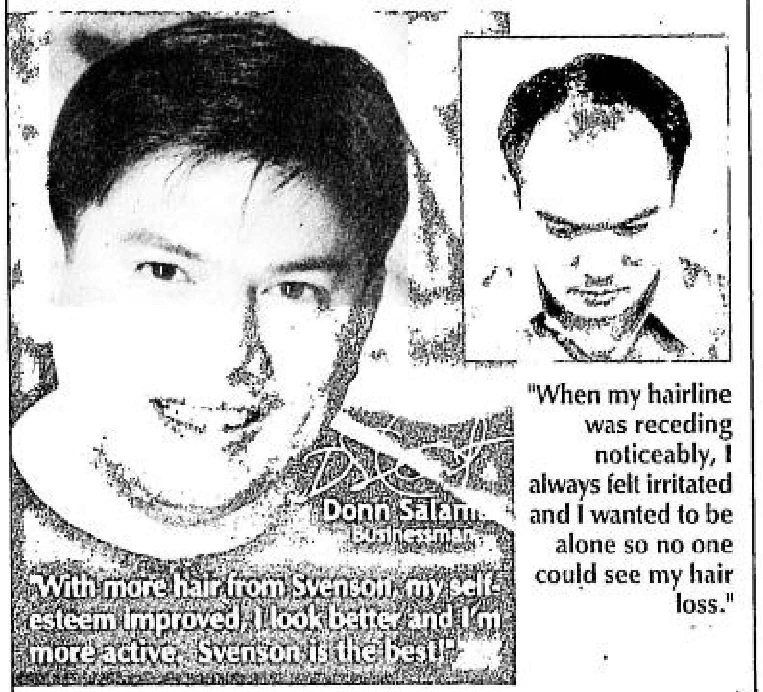
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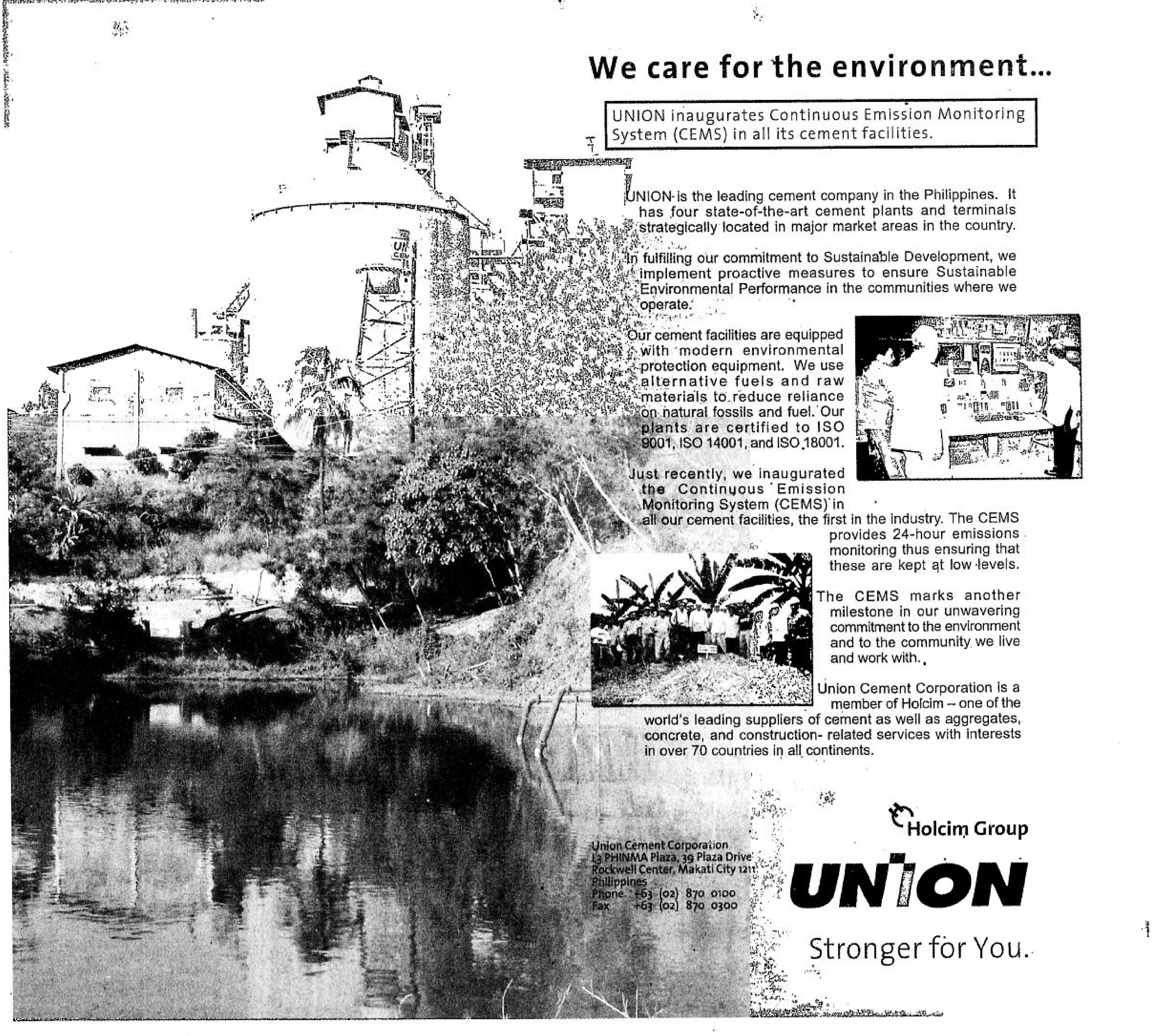

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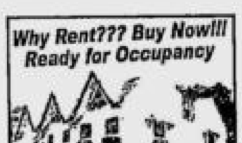

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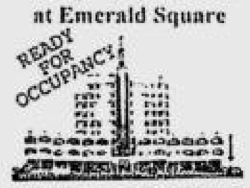

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Tourism
T.M. Kalaw, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 525-3744 / 524-6541

Invitation to Bid for the Provision of Lights & Sounds, and Music Instrumentation Systems

The Department of Tourism, through its Pre-Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites qualified mobile sound and lights rental companies to participate in the bidding for the provision of:

(1) Lights & Sounds Systems and
(2) Musical Instrumentation Systems,

which are needed for the purpose of holding regular cultural and entertainment production numbers in support of the ***Visit the Philippines Year 2003*** campaign from ***1 September 2003*** until ***31 December 2003*** in various venues within Intramuros, namely:

- Clamshells I & II
- Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
- Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
- Sta. Lucia Gardens
- Plaza San Ignacio, and
- Fort Santiago

The Terms of Reference may be obtained from the PBAC Secretariat in Room 309, DOT Bldg., TM Kalaw St., Manila from July 31 - August 7, 2003 upon submission of the following requirements: (1) Letter of Intent, photocopies of (2) valid Mayor's Permit, (3) DTI Certification Registration, (4) latest audited Financial Statements, (5) latest Income Tax Return and (6) payment of non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00). Original copies should be shown for authentication purposes.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on August 8, 2003 at 2:00 P.M., DOT Auditorium, 4th Floor DOT Bldg. The sealed bids shall be accepted on or before August 14, 2003, 2:00 P.M. Rm. 309, DOT Bldg. All the submitted bids shall be opened subsequently on the same date, 2:30 PM, at the DOT Auditorium, 4th Floor, DOT Bldg.

The DOT reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to nullify the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the BAC is the most advantageous to the government. The BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or lose that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) Asst. Secretary Ma. Theresa I. Martinez
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI July 27, 28 & 29, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Camarines Norte Provincial Office
Emil 2 Bldg., J. Lukban St., Daet, Camarines Norte

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 6657, the following landowners are hereby notified that their property/properties hereunder listed to wit:

	Landowner	Location	Area (Has.)	Title
1.	Placido Roquiz, Jr.	Daguit, Labo, Camarines Norte	16.3950	T-18346
2.	Soledad Pajarillo	Iberica, Labo, Camarines Norte	20.0921	T-15294
3.	Carlos de Jesus	Napaod, Labo, Camarines Norte	24.9352	T-12208
4.	Francisco Regala	Bautista, Labo, Camarines Norte	9.2000	T-6318
5.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	10.1522	T-168
6.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	2.7053	T-143
7.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	3.7458	T-342
8.	Mineral Resources, Inc.	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	2.2741	T-139
9.	Mineral Resources, Inc	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	21.3522	T-227
10.	Mineral Resources, Inc	Benit, Labo, Camarines Norte	2.5617	T-136
11.	Global Business Bank	Baay, Labo, Camarines Norte	3.9846	T-547

are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Under DAR Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2003, the right to choose the area to be retained must be exercised within Sixty (60) days from the date of Publication of the Notice of Coverage. Failure to exercise this right of retention within the prescribed period shall be considered as a waiver of the right/privilege to: apply for exemption/exclusion or retention, nominate children as beneficiary/ies, or submit evidence for determining just compensation.

Under Executive Order No. 405, we shall request the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the reasonable Land Value of the said property being acquired pursuant to Section 17, of Republic Act No. 6657.

(Sgd.) HUBERTO L. VILLARAZA, CESO V
PARO II

(PDI–July 22, 29 & Aug. 5, 2003)

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BILLING & COL. OFFICER 527-1590

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla. Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of December and January 2003 on August 10, 2003, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given of the loss of Sta. Elena Golf Club Inc. Share#M018B & Canlubang Golf & Country Club Inc. Share#1762 in the name of EDMUNDO T. ONGSIAKO. If no one contest one year from date of publication a new cert. will be issued.
(PDI- July 29, Aug. 5 & 12, 2003)

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EQUIPMENTS FOR SALE!!!

The following articles are offered for sale with their indicative (**negotiable**) prices:

Item	Location	Indicative Price
Riding Mower	Bonifacio Global City, Taguig	PhP 100,000
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Kubota Tractor Model L3300DT	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 200,000
Generator KVA 250 (A1 Condition)	Brgy. Sinturisan Sitio Owakan, San Antonio Quezon	PhP 690,000

For inquiries and further details, please call Mr. Froilan Tejada at 885 3739 and (0917)627 8288. Offers should be sent to the above officer at Building A, Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than August 15, 2003. All offers to purchase shall be subject to approval by company approving authority.

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DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
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website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **ACQUISITION OF TWENTY (20) UH-1H HELICOPTERS with INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SUPPORT (ILS)** for the Philippine Air Force, with an approved budget of **Six Hundred Fifty-Nine Million, Eight Hundred and Eight Thousand Pesos (Php 659,808,000.00)** chargeable against the CY 2000 and CY 2002 AFP Modernization Program funds.

Only bids from prime contractors who may be the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the UH-1H Helicopter and its T-53 Engine or their duly authorized repair facilities shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will be available for issuance starting **July 29, 2003** until **August 14, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Sixty-Five Thousand Pesos (Php 65,000.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. The pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of the first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 14, 2003 at 09:00 AM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than seven (7) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The deadline for submission of the 1st stage envelopes is on **September 2, 2003 at 09:00 AM** (local time) to be followed by the opening of bids at **10:00 AM** at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found to be eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Original Signed)

ERNESTO G CAROLINA
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - July 29 & Aug. 5, 2003)

OBITUARIES

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

DR. JOSEFINA BAUTISTA-MAGNO

(1919 - 2003)

Peacefully returned to the Father
on Sunday, 27 July 2003.

We, her children
Lito - Sue
Vicente - Margy
Cesar Jr.
Mario (†)
Nanette
Carlo - Lina
Manny - Tess
and grandchildren and great grandchildren

her sisters and brothers, **Alma** (†) and **Paul Capati** (†); **Noli** (†); **Felix** (†) and **Nena Syquia**; **Sol** (†) and **Pitong Vergara** (†); **Betts** and **Sal Razon**; **Nolon** and **Caring Yatco**; **Tessie** and **Ped Coronel**; **Flory** and **P.M. Aguas**; her nephews and nieces; other relatives and friends were blessed to love and be loved by her.

Her remains lie in state at the Santa Maria Della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Road, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 31 July 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations for the construction of Our Lady of Pentecost Parish Church, Loyola Heights, Quezon City will be appreciated.

In peace I shall both lie down and sleep, for you alone,
Lord make me secure... Psalm 4:9

DR. CORNELIO DIAZ ABELA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 27, 2003 at the age of 78.

His loving children **Joey J. Abela, Roberto S. Abela**; grandchildren **Joanne, Katherine, Janelle Kristie, Zenia Karissa,** and **Criselda**; brothers **Severino, Vicente, Elpidio,** and **Panfilo**; sister **Virginia**, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at the Chapel of Poblacion 1 City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

In Loving Memory

On the 9th Death Anniversary of

Lily De Las Alas Padilla

On July 29, 2003

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 12:00 NN, ALPADI, Antipolo and at the following churches:

Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning	5:15 am
Sta. Cruz Parish	6:30 am / 12:15 pm
Mary the Queen Church, Greenhills	7:00 am
Shrine Our Lady of Manaoag	6:00 am
Nuestra Señora de Gracia, Guadalupe	6:00 pm
St. James the Greater, Ayala, Alabang	6:30 am
Santuario de San Jose - Greenhills	7:15 pm
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo	7:00 am
St. John the Baptist, Pinaglabanan, San Juan	7:15 am
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	6:00 pm
St. Francis Parish - Shaw Blvd.	6:00 pm
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Edsa	6:00 pm
Christ the King, Green Meadows	6:00 pm
St. Andrew Parish, Bel Air	6:30 pm
Basilica San Martin Tours, Taal	5:30 am
St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:00 am
Benedictine Abbey, Alabang Hills	6:30 pm
Sta. Maria Stella Orientis - CRC	6:00 am
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish	6:00 am
St. Peter & Paul Parish	7:00 am
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice UP	6:00 am
Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish	6:00 am
Ateneo Law School Rockwell Center	6:00 pm
Immaculate Conception Parish - Antipolo	8:00 am

Her children request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember her in their prayers.

In Loving Memory on the
First Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved Papa

MANUEL C. DIOSOMITO

of Naic, Cavite
(Sept. 15, 1916 – July 29, 2002)

Holy Masses will be offered on Tuesday, July 29, 2003
in the following Churches:

San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish, Carmel 3, T. Sora, QC	6:30 a.m.
St. Vincent Parish, Tandang Sora, QC	6:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño Church, Bago Bantay, QC	6:30 a.m.
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Ave., QC	6:00 a.m.
Lourdes Church, Retiro, QC	6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Annunciation Parish, Mindanao Ave., QC	7:00 p.m.

We, his loving family request relatives and friends to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul in God's everlasting life with his beloved wife, **Lydia C. Diosomito** (†).

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a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2003

OBITUARIES

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The family of
Ambassador Philippe J. Lhuillier
and the
Management and Staff of
Oceanic 1911 Gifts & Jewelry
wish to condole with the
family of its loyal friend and beloved President

PILAR ARRIOLA MARTINEZ

who passed away last July 26, 2003.

Her unparalleled loyalty and dedication to Oceanic 1911 will always serve as an inspiration to all.

Her remains lie in state at the Sacred Heart Shrine in Kamagong St., Makati City.

Cremation will be on July 30, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

"It is in dying that we are born to eternal life" — **St. Francis of Assisi**

DR. EUFROCINA "PROZ" COSICO-MARTIN

of San Pablo City
January 1, 1938 - July 17, 2003

Her remains will arrive on July 30, Wednesday and will lie in state at 22 I. Barleta St., San Pablo City. Interment will be on Thursday, July 31, 2003 at the San Pablo Municipal Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at the San Pablo Cathedral.

NORIEL T. COSICO

of South San Francisco, CA and San Pablo City
August 9, 1945 - July 17, 2003

He was interred at South San Francisco, California on July 26, 2003.

Please pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

Elizabeth Luy Pascual

Loving wife & mother
Solemnly Passed away on July 27, 2003
at the age of 59.

Her beloved husband **Benjamin**; her 5 sons **John Oliver**, **John Paul**, **John Randolf**, **John Philippe** and **John Benjamin**; her daughters-in-law **Wendy** and **Betty**; her 2 grandsons, her brothers and sisters, her nephews and nieces, relatives and friends mourn her departure into eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced.

NELLIE LIGOT GALANG

Former Administrative Officer
GSIS, QC & National Tobacco Administration
Peacefully joined our Lord on July 27, 2003.

Her bereaved spouse **Atty. Victor Galang**; sons **Joel** and **Ernani**; grandchildren, sisters **Judge Elsie L.Telan** and **Dr. Priscilla L. Ferrer**, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on August 2, 2003.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NED!!!

EDUARDO G. RAMOS

July 29, 1948 – October 24, 2000

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches on July 29, 2003:

SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, Mc Kinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 PM
SANCTUARIO DE SAN JOSE, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:00 PM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH, Greenhills, San Juan, MM	6:00 PM
ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE DIVINE MERCY, Maysilo St., Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM
SAN ROQUE PARISH CHURCH, Barangka, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM
PARISH OF SAN FELIPE NERI, Mandaluyong City	6:00 AM

Request the pious readers, relatives and friends to say a prayer in his memory.

We miss you so much...

Love,
MARITA, JET and **BILLIE**

At 8:20 this morning, July 28, 2003 (Monday), at the age of 91
our co-Sister

SR. GIUSEPPINA F. GALLO, FMA

finally surrendered her life to the Father after 69 years
of faithful and generous service in the Institute of the Daughters
of Mary Help of Christians.

She was one of the pioneer Missionaries in the
Philippine Province.

Her remains lie in state at Don Bosco School Chapel,
3500 V. Mapa Ext., Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Schedule of Masses
July 28-30, 2003 - 7:30 P.M.
July 30, 2003 - 7:30 P.M. (Salesian Family Mass)

Funeral Mass: July 31, 2003 - 1:30 P.M. Don Bosco Chapel,
Sta. Mesa, Manila

Interment at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

ARIEL PUYAT CARLOS

Former Senior Art Director
McCann Erickson, Philippines
7/29/59 - 7/29/02

It's true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it, but it's also true that we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives.

Happiness lies for those who cry, those who hurt, those who have searched, and those who have tried; for only they can appreciate the importance of people who have touched their lives.

In art there is compassion; in compassion there is humanity; with humanity there is generosity and love. You gave us these attributes in full measure.

You loving family and relatives are celebrating your first birthday of eternal life today.

In God's Heavenly light you shine as life to behold.

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be." - John 12:26

Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

Atty. FIDEL CARPIO BERNARDO

Peacefully joined our Creator
on July 27, 2003 at the age of 69.

His wife **Kgd. Nene**; children **Gerry** and **Janice**, **Engrs. Tina** and **Butch**, **Ambet** and **Dina**, **Monching** and **Analyn**, **Cynthia**, and **Dra. Cris** and **Willy**; grandchildren **Biboy**, **Joshua** and **Jeff**, **BJ** and **Kristel**, **Ruffo**, **Rannie**, **Regie** and **Rysal**, **Louie**, **Amos** and **Szaena**, and **CD** and **Ara**, mourn his passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, 24 Tolentino St., SFDM, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 31, 2003 at the Immaculate Conception Memorial Park, Pandi, Bulacan after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Pandi, Bulacan.

"We never lose those we give to God"

Third Death Anniversary

REV. FR. ODILARDO "Efren" J. ARCEO, OSB

(November 14, 1945 - July 29, 2000)

Basilica of Immaculate Conception, Batangas City	5:30 AM
Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Manila	5:30 AM
St. Benedict College Chapel, Alabang	6:15 AM
Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Novaliches, Quezon City	6:15 AM
Stella Maris College Chapel, Cubao, Quezon City	6:15 AM
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine, Manila	6:30 AM
Good Shepherd Convent, Quezon City	6:30 AM
Benedictine Abbey Church, Mendiola, Manila	6:30 AM
Mary Mother of the Church Parish, BF Resort, Las Piñas	6:30 AM
Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Sunnyside, Quezon City	6:45 AM
Our Lady of Pillar Parish, Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 AM
Ateneo de Manila University Chapel, Loyola, Quezon City	11:30 AM
St. Scholastica College Chapel, Manila	12:00 Noon
Immaculate Conception Church, Cubao, Quezon City	6:00 PM
St. Benedict College Chapel, Alabang	6:30 PM
Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Cubao, Quezon City	6:30 PM
Anawim Community Center, BF Resort, Las Piñas	7:30 PM
St. John Baptist De La Salle Church, Granada Hills, California, USA	7:00 AM
Our Lady of Sun Valley Church, West Hills, California, USA	8:45 AM
St. Euphrasia Church, Granada Hills, California, USA	8:45 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Northridge, California, USA	9:00 AM
Church of the Holy Cross, Italy	10:30 AM
St. John Eudes, Chatsworth, California, USA	12:30 PM

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers
to continuously remember him in your prayers.

"Let us keep the flame of remembrance
burning in our hearts."

DEATH NOTICES

MONCHITO REGIO

of Suha, Torrijos, Mainduque and Bago Bantay, Quezon City
Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 26, 2003
His remains lie at Chapel F, St. Peter Chapel, Quezon Ave., Quezon City.
Interment will be tentatively scheduled on Wednesday, July 30, 2003.

ATTY. PASTOR GUINTO BUSTOS

of Masantol, Pampanga
Peacefully joined the Risen Lord on July 25, 2003 at the age of 82.
His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels,
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on
Thursday, July 31, 2003 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

IMELDA QUINTO Vda. de TOLENTINO

of Sta. Cruz, Laguna and Quezon City
Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on July 25, 2003
Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels,
Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Interment will be on Wednesday, July 30, 2003
at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City

"Take my words to heart and the years of your life shall
be multiplied. I have educated you in the ways of wisdom,
I have guided you along the paths of honesty."
Proverbs 4: 10-12

Emmanuel N. Peláez

November 30, 1915 - July 27, 2003

His wife Edith Fabella; children, Floy (†) and Pilaring Grey, Ernie and Thailee Ivory, Peachy and Frank Reyes, Apples and Spanky Meer, Cherry and Jorge Salazar, Bong and Beng Gozun, Rico and Jessica Celdran, Noel and Vina Alava, Berry and Dojie Marfori; grandchildren, and great grandchildren ask the reader to pray for the repose of his soul.

His wake will be at the St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susanna Parish Church, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila.

◆

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Parkinson's Support Group Foundation or the Tulay Sa Pagunlad, Inc. would be greatly appreciated.

Pelaez Gregorio and Gregorio Law Office

mourns the death of its founding partner

Emmanuel N. Pelaez

who served his country faithfully and unselfishly in various capacities as vice-president, lawmaker, statesman and ambassador to the United States

We ask the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

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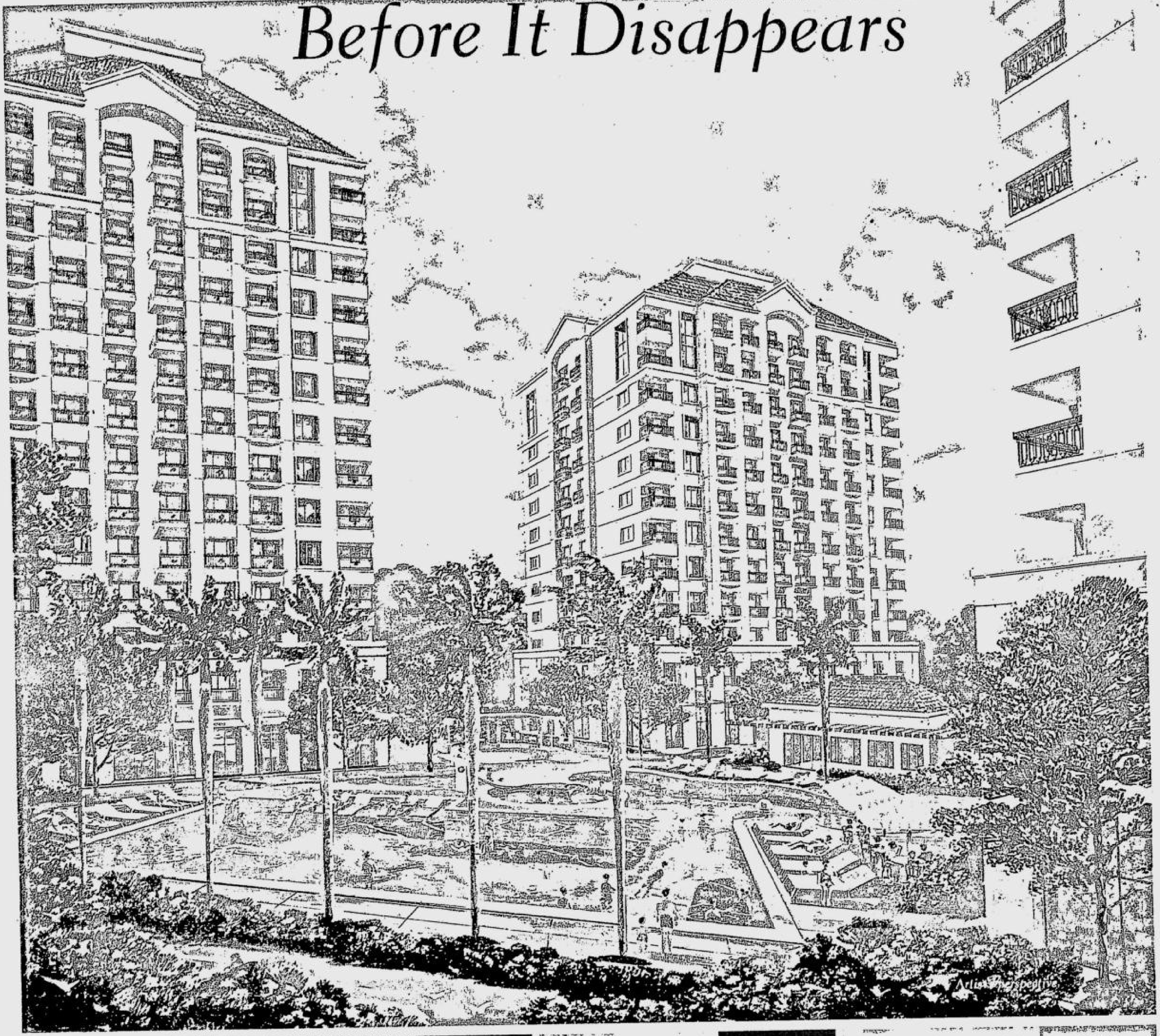

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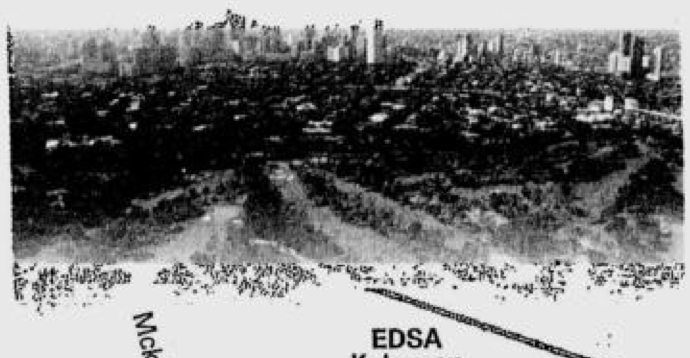

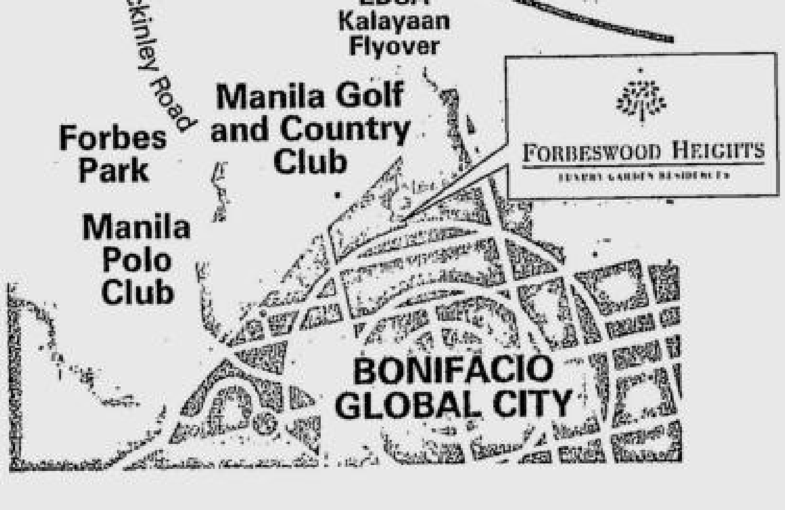
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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

116,412 new housing units constructed last year

By Catherine J. Teves

THE GOVERNMENT'S housing program continued to gain headway with the construction of 116,412 dwelling units nationwide last year, and more were programmed this year and beyond to cope with the housing backlog in the country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has identified housing as one of the priorities during her watch.

Private residential projects

Records released by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board show that there were 1,981 private residential projects throughout the country in 2002.

Based on the HLURB report, 106 projects involving 25,955 dwelling units were ventures under economic housing, 36 other projects with 11,141 dwelling units were socialized housing and 58 projects with 18,778 units were classified as compliance projects.

Two others were low-cost residential condominium projects with 792 units.

The private sector's total output for 2002 was 237 projects more than the 1,744 private residential ventures that were issued corresponding licenses by the agency during 2001.

According to authorities, this reflects the government's thrust toward harnessing and promoting private sector participation in its housing program.

In a related development, authorities noted that between January 2001 and December 2002, 87,604 households have been provided with land tenure/housing units, exceeding the 80,000 houses programmed for low-salaried workers and the poor.

Housing programs

This was undertaken through housing programs of the Home Development Mutual Fund, the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, Landbank and the Development Bank of the Philippines.

During the same period, 431,603 households were also given shelter security units. These are 131,603 units more than the 300,000 units pledged by the government.

A total of 245,200 households out of the targeted 150,000 urban poor families also benefited from efforts to provide security of land tenure. This was made possible through the Asset Reform Program/Presidential Proclamations that helped 203,540 households, the Community Mortgage Program that aided 33,328 families and 8,332 availed of the national government housing project.

Furthermore, 98,799 households out of the targeted 70,000 families were granted land tenure/service plots through programs of the National Housing Authority, the HDMF, the Mt. Pinatubo Commission and other private organizations.

NHA production output rate

Meanwhile, the NHA posted a total production output rate of 76 percent from Jan. 1 to May 31 of this year, representing 5,715 units completed out of the 7,566 units targeted nationwide for this period.

In the National Capital Region, the agency overshot its target by a whooping 316 percent covering 1,567 units completed out of 496 units programmed for the same period.

The Visayas, Southern Luzon/Bicol, Mindanao and the Northern and Central Luzon region posted production output rates of 78 percent, 70 percent, 43 percent and 39 percent, respectively.

Also during the same period, a total of 4,148 unit out of 7,070 units programmed for these regions outside the NCR were completed by the NHA.

In terms of specific programs, the agency posted a 161 percent production output rate during the first half of 2003 for projects covered under its two security of tenure offerings, completing 1,579 units or 600 units more than the 979 projects planned from January to May.

Another 2,518 units out of 5,590 units planned for the period were completed under NHA's lots-only programs.

Aside from these accomplishments, the NHA also began undertaking new ones in different provinces during the first half of the year. As of May 2003, a total of 11,171 units were started by the agency.

Units classified under regular production numbered 162 in the NCR, 429 in Northern and Central Luzon, 9,060 in Southern Luzon and Bicol, and 23 in the Visayas.

On the other hand, a total of 1,497 projects were started under the Community-Based Tenurial Assistance Program, with Northern and Central Luzon having the biggest number at 774 units. This is followed by Mindanao with 321, NCR with 156, the Visayas with 125 and Southern Luzon and the Bicol region with 121.

Among these new ventures are the Cabuyao Housing Project under the government resettlement program for squatters affected by the Southrail project, the Northrail-Towerville resettlement project in Bulacan, the La Union sites and services (SS) project, the Baguio City Market Plaza Cooperative housing project and the Land Tenure Assistance Program in Misamis Oriental.

THE NHA has stepped up efforts to develop affordable home models for housing needs of the people.
PNA

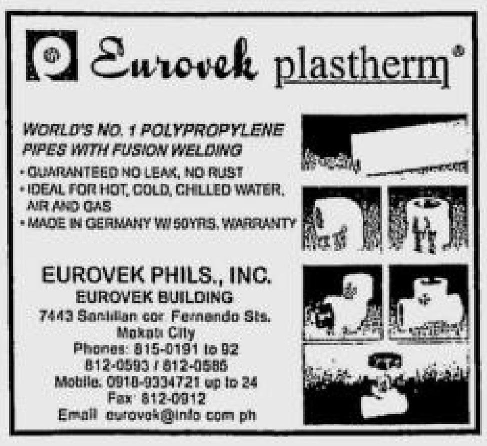
Resettlement projects

NHA-administered resettlement projects involve the acquisition and development of large tracts of raw land into serviced lots for families who have been displaced from sites which are either reserved for government infrastructure projects or those located in dangerous areas like waterways and railroad tracks.

The agency's resettlement assistance program for local government units (LGUs), meanwhile, focuses on the NHA-LGU partnership in developing resettlement sites. Here, the former extends financial assistance to the latter, which in turn, utilizes revenues generated from their beneficiaries' payments for project maintenance or acquisition and/or development of new resettlement sites within their jurisdiction.

The NHA's SS program involves acquisition and development of raw land into serviced homelots to serve either as alternatives to informal settlements or as catchment areas for in-migration and population growth.

The LTAP seeks to support community initiatives in securing land tenure through the extension of credit assistance to community associations for the acquisition of land which beneficiaries already occupy or intend to resettle in. *PNA*



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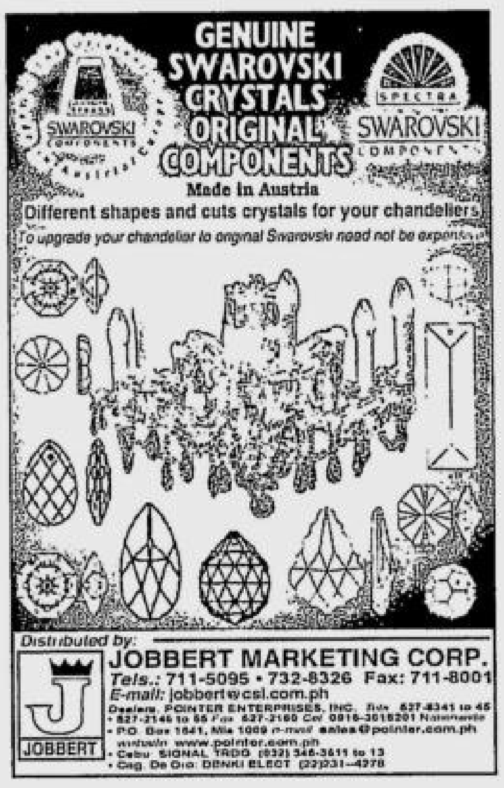

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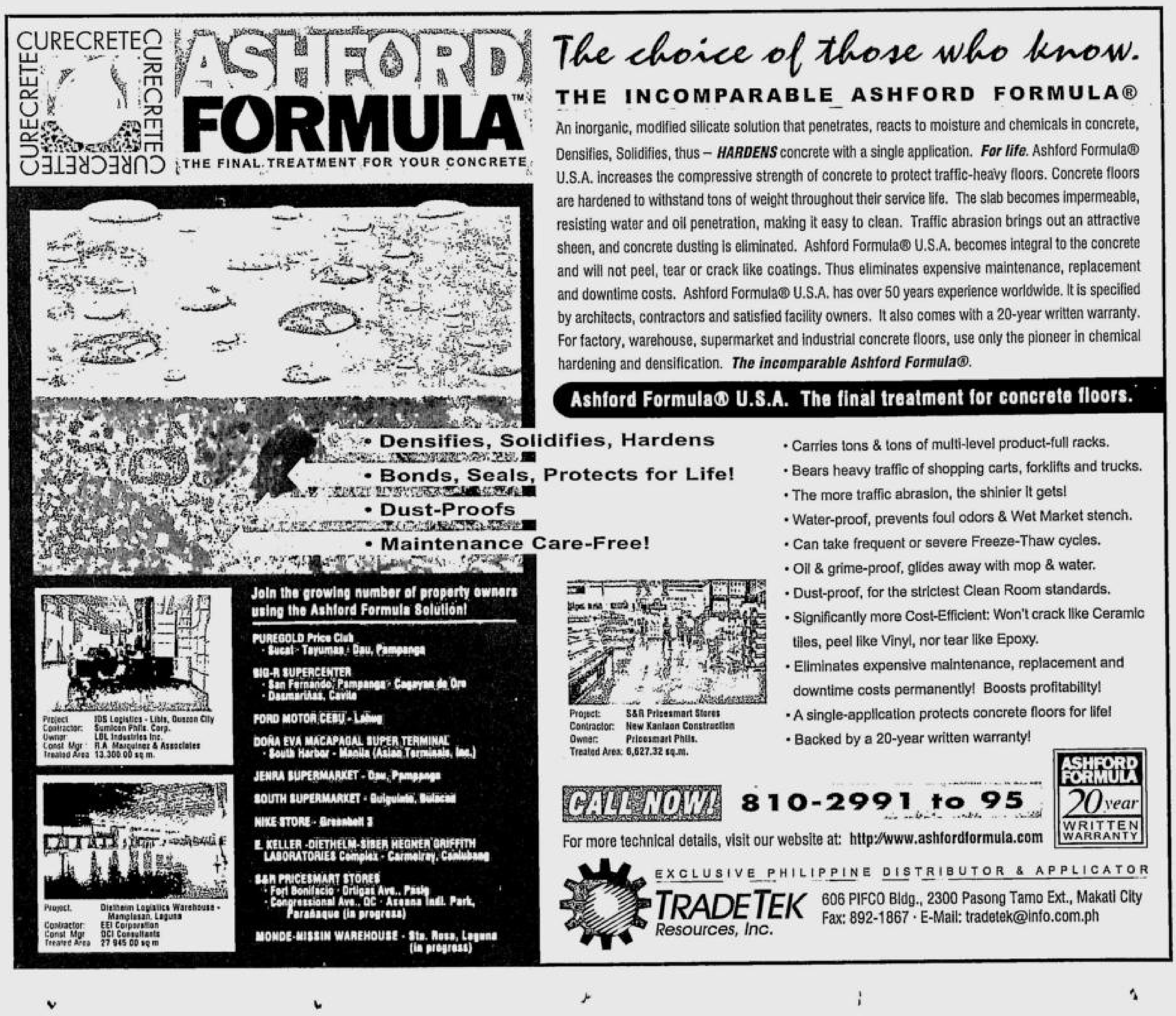

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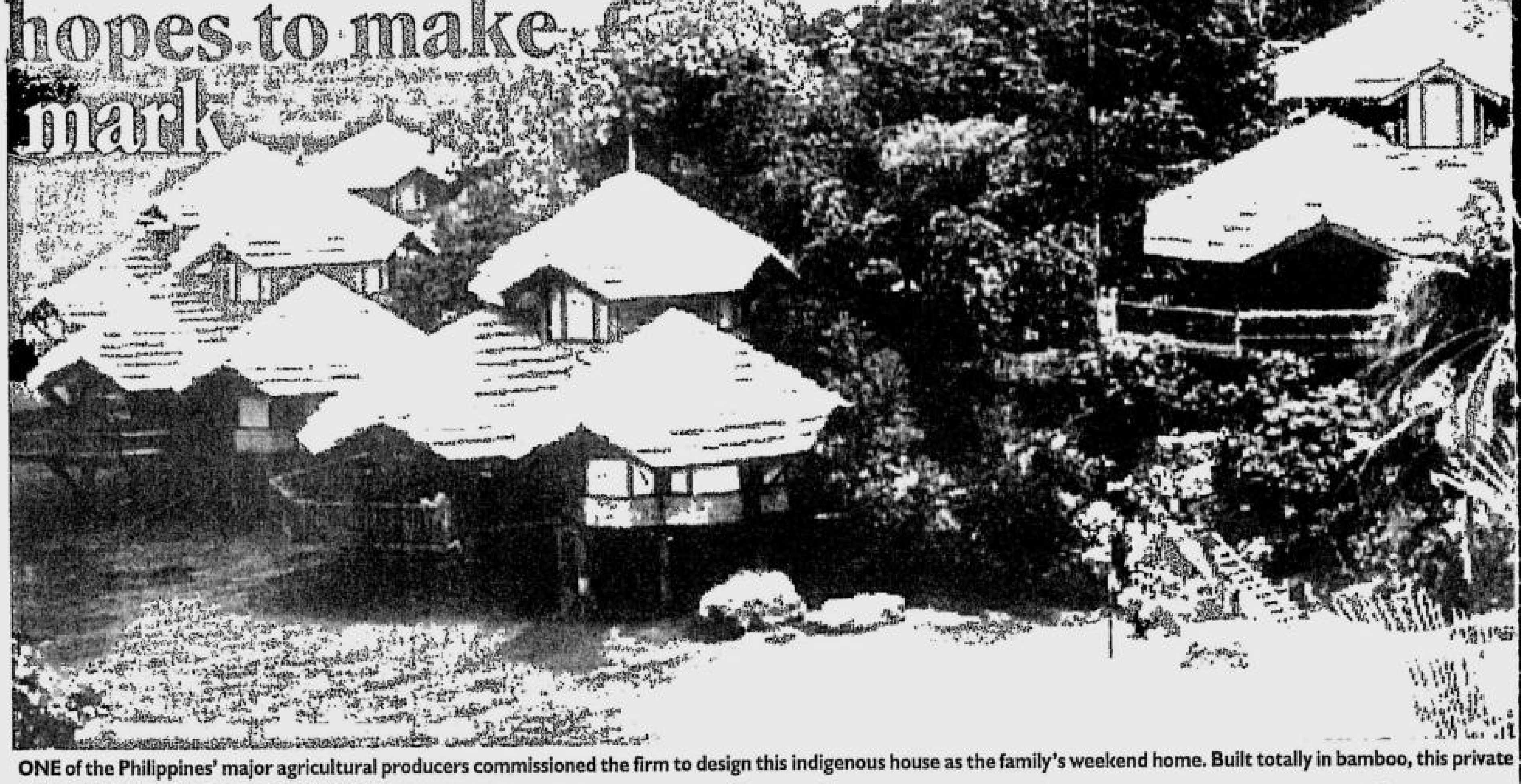
Filipino identity in architecture hopes to make global mark

By Tessa R. Salazar

PEOPLE go to Japan and appreciate Japanese architecture. They go to China and become inspired by Chinese architecture. Tourists go to France and marvel at French architecture.

If people would come to the Philippines, would they be able to find touches of Filipino architecture? The answer is, hardly.

One of the few architectural firms that consistently designs Filipino in everything it does is Mañosa and Partners. For years, the "Mañosa signature" has become so popular that people would readily identify native-inspired structures—contemporary or otherwise—to the architecture firm.



ONE of the Philippines' major agricultural producers commissioned the firm to design this indigenous house as the family's weekend home. Built totally in bamboo, this private

Filipino touch

Remember Palawan's Amanpulo, the Coconut Palace, or the country's landmark in Edsa Shrine or the Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace? That's not all. Some of the nature or tropical-inspired vacation houses or churches in some of the more popular vacation spots in the country are also designs of Mañosa&Partners.

A nature church in Las Piñas, for instance, has no walls but only anahaw roof carried only by cables attached to 60-year-old trees. The lights are made of capiz and the seats made of logs. Even the statue of Jesus Christ is leaning against a tree minus the wooden cross.

The Filipino touch is evident in almost all of the Mañosa works, from a bracket light to ashtrays, to the entire structure. Everything is made guided by one philosophy: the Filipino design should be the unifying character.

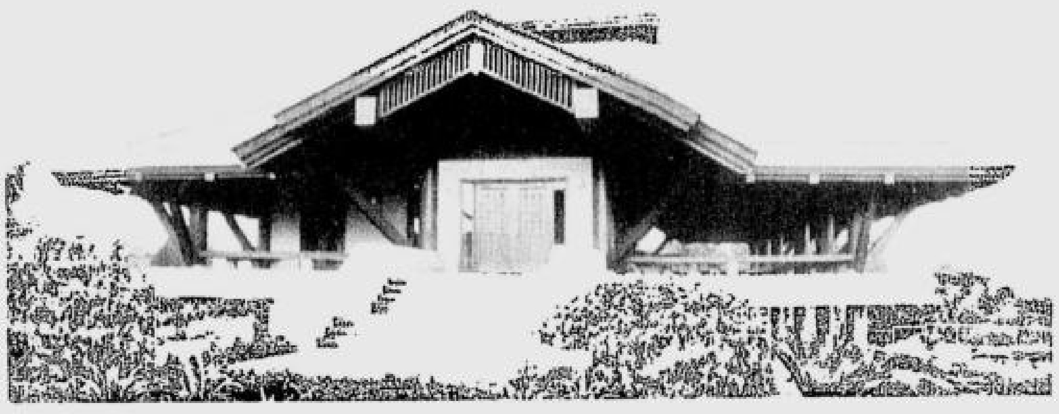
And thinking Filipino, it seems, comes with its advantages. A common characteristic with all its structures is a "finial" on top—whether they're buildings or vacation houses.

A finial, a pointed structure on top of a building that also acts as lightning arrester, is supposed to represent a *salakot* of farmers.

Blending

The firm is composed of young and veteran architects, who stress that they design with the Filipino or Asian culture in mind even if the design projects are intended outside of the Philippines. The architect-partners are Stanley G. Fernandez, Cecilia S. Hofileña, Angelo Mañosa and Luis "Ludwig" P. Alvarez.

The partners say their practice has always been directed toward the Filipino culture and heritage—toward "Filipinism."



DESIGNED as Gotianun's vacation house, it is elevated on stilts that allow for an expanded recreational space on the lower floor. Open on three sides, the main living area is in a large verandah that accesses the view while allowing the circulation of air into the structure.

LUYM residence in Cebu City

Spreading the word

Being also teachers at the University of the Philippines and the University of Sto. Tomas, some of the architects of the Mañosa&Partners have strengthened the practice by spreading the word to universities and schools and get the young more wondering how Filipino design in architecture can make a difference.

Mañosa&Partners, at 27 years old, has compiled materials for a large format book "Designing Filipino: The Architecture of Francisco Mañosa," which would cover the team's major works. Produced by the Tukod Foundation, the book is written by Eric Caruncho with a foreword by Robert Powell.

Architect Francisco Mañosa said the book—which would illustrate how to "design Filipino"—is being looked forward to by architectural students.

"All of a sudden, the young architects in the schools are waiting for this book because they say this would be a bible for them. I don't say we stand alone in this philosophy, but if we have 16,000 architects registered in this country today, we can shake this country all over the world. Whatever is local can become global," he told the INQUIRER.

Mañosa said the idea of Filipino designs becoming global is something that he had always preached. He had been an advocate of the Filipino identity in architecture since he was a student during the 1950s.

"We're not saying that this (Filipino design) is the path to take. We're just saying that this is one of the many avenues that one can take, one that we believe promotes Philippine culture," said Angelo Mañosa, a son and a senior partner of Francisco Mañosa.

Today, Mañosa's team has been invited to work on projects in Hong Kong, Sydney, Palaw and the Caribbean. The firm has projects in the Bahamas, Australia and in the United States, the Middle East, among others. Many of its projects have been lauded as an authentic representation of Philippine culture that sets Filipinos apart from the rest of Asia.

"These are foreigners telling us we want Philippine architecture in our country," said the younger Mañosa.

Angelo said that often it took a foreign eye to see the beauty of the Filipino design, while Filipinos themselves have to look outside of their country to look for beautiful designs.

"We have succeeded in (getting the attention of the international market) because of our many projects around the world," he said.

"My dad wanted to say this a lot. Now Philippine architecture is global architecture," said Angelo.

But the firm's style is not about merely transplanting Filipino characteristics to other countries. Stanley Fernandez, another senior partner, stressed that when the team designs abroad, it still adapts to the requirements of the host country.

'Like chameleons'

"We're like chameleons. With all our projects outside, we always want to include something about the place in the projects. It's not about a Filipino house being transported to Malaysia or Australia. We like to adapt to the place," he said.

He added that if the team designs in a cold climate, it could still be Asian-inspired, but it has to apply certain changes, such as making the windows smaller.

The team also has to fo
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Ludwig Alvarez, a seni
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Alvarez lamented the
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Hotelier expects strong market demand amid uncertain times

By Charles E. Buban

COUP D'ETAT, an international terrorist bolting out of jail and a dipping peso-dollar exchange are likely to see more travelers and businessmen staying put and enjoying the sights in their own country these coming months.

Hotelier Leandro Enriquez is certainly hoping that will be the case and he is confident to see further rise in bookings for the remainder of the year.

The president and CEO of The Sulo Hotel said he is confident of continuing its sturdy growth in 2003 despite the difficult times in the hospitality industry.

"We have seen how the industry go up and down in reaction to political and economic episodes here and abroad," said Enriquez.

"In our case, we have been here for the past 36 years so one can see how many challenges we have already weathered," he added.

Above industry rate

The Sulo Hotel has managed to maintain occupancy levels in the low to mid 80 percent marks, well above the hotel industry average, reflecting the hotel's strong management and the demand of business travelers and a number of government agencies around the area, who prefer business hotel accommodation.

"We predict continued demand for the rest of business hotels in 2003 and expect our occupancies to remain at their current levels," said Enriquez.

Public relations officer in charge Leigh Lucero said the 100-percent Filipino-owned corporation has succeeded not only because it is in sync with traveler requirements but also because it offers advantages established hotels do not.

The hotel is a favorite venue for business functions, meetings, conventions and especially "Kapihan" events where local and national politicians converge to discuss current events and other pressing matters.

"Being located near government establishments such as the BIR, Quezon City Hall, SSS, Bangko Sentral security complex, the Philippine Heart Center, University of the Philippines and the House of Representatives serves us well," she said.

Spark demand

The turnaround is expected to spark increased demand for hotel property with local players the bulk of the buyers.

In the case of Sulo Hotel, local clients outnumber foreign guests 3 to 1, "which is perhaps the situation in most hotels right now," Enriquez added.

Occupancy rate in general has reported an average of 59.92 percent in 2002 up from 55.85 percent in 2001.

This figure was based on the data submitted by 50 Department of Tourism accredited hotels in Metro Manila, which has a combined capacity of 11,878 rooms.

ENRIQUEZ

The average occupancy rate among the 31 standard hotels that participated in the survey showed an increase of 55.88 percent last year up from the registered 52.51 percent in 2001 while the average occupancy rate among the seven economy hotels climbed to 51.34 percent in 2002 from 41.13 percent of 2001.

The report also included 15 deluxe hotels, which posted a 62.72 percent occupancy rate, up from the 58.39 percent posted in 2001.

On the other hand, average occupancy rate among first-class hotels also increased last year (59.9 percent from 54.42 percent in 2001).

More than 3 decades

When The Sulo Hotel was opened on Aug. 4, 1967 by couples Modesto and Trinidad Diaz-Enriquez, this part of Quezon City was still largely undeveloped.

"There was only a plan for its development and nothing else," reminisced Enriquez. "And it was only 10 years later that the area around Matalino road in Diliman started to transform into what it is today."

The Sulo Hotel operates 70 guest rooms with rates ranging from P1,822 (for standard single rooms) to P4,967 (for deluxe suites), a price range many of its clients find not too stiff.

Acropolis a regional att

IF you are scanning the local tourism landscape for new family getaway spots away from the congested destinations, you could set your sights on the Acropolis North Water Camp and Country Club in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. It is a new water adventure oasis constructed by Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. and joint-venture partner Anamel Builders Inc.

The leisure resort has been developed to be an exciting holiday venue. Sta. Lucia recently inaugurated Acropolis North Water Camp with fitting pizazz—a fashion show, sports exhibitions and tournaments.

Regional attraction

Sta. Lucia president Exequiel Robles said Acropolis North Water Camp is setting its sights to be a regional attraction and capture a large market of holiday seekers in Region 3, comprising the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Bulacan and Zambales as well as far-off Metro Manila and Metro Baguio.

The development is located on Maharlika Highway approaching Cabanatuan City. Just a 150-kilometer, 3-hour drive from Metro Manila, Acropolis Water Camp and Country Club is an exclusive membership club for buyers of the Acropolis North residential property.

Sta. Lucia is enticing fun seekers and water lovers to float in a tube around the lazy ever, slide down 40 to 50 feet water flumes, lie on the sands of the beach-type pool, and be pampered in the muscle-soothing jacuzzis. Children have their own oversized pool with water playground.

Guests can laze or eat in any of the many water-side gazebos, or in the restaurant.

ACROPOLIS North Water Camp

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comes members and guests with the m
the underwater sea creatures. A v
room, billiards and table tennis bar,
basketball and badminton make up th
sports interior complex, which is
mented by outdoor tennis courts.

The clubhouse has a complement of
las of standard and suite accommodati

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

etreat of the Floirendos showcases Philippine furniture in bamboo, rattan and coconut.

ANGELO, Stanley, Francisco and Ludwig (not shown is Ma. Cecilia)

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Indonesian architecture, he said, in comparison, continues to develop.

The firm's architects also lament the "colonial mentality" pervading even in many Filipinos' choice of a house design for their own families.

"Many Filipinos dream of a Mediterranean home, a Swiss house in Baguio or a French chateau in Forbes Park. They dream of glass buildings in Ayala because (it is their idea of) progress. They maintain the Philippines is not that deep culturally. But if you and I dig deeper, you would discover that the Filipino culture is richer than many, many other countries," said Francisco Mañosa.

'Bahay Kubo'

The song "Bahay Kubo" is one simple philosophy in a nutshell that would consistently keep them on their toes when designing structures, said Fernandez.

The "bahay kubo," the takeoff form of the Mañosa&Partners, is the core form of the philosophy of the Mañosa structures. The structures have big openings, reflect native materials and responsive to climate. They have long overhangs to protect the occupants from the heat as well as maximize ventilation.

The philosophy is then fused with the contemporary structures.

The materials that they have used included coconut shells in a cabinet door as well as local wood. The firm wants to use sustainable wood to be environment friendly but the country doesn't have sustainable forests unlike Malaysia and Indonesia.

"Sometimes we have to import wood from Malaysia and Indonesia. That's the sad part, we are supposed to have sustainable forests. We have more than 7,100 islands and we can always plant," said Fernandez.

Fernandez showed a German-owned vacation house where bedrooms are situated to have a view of the sea instead of facing a wall with a TV set. Rooms are not big but the designs took advantage of the huge openings and the view.

The colors of the interior and furniture are consistently earth tones such as beige and brown.

The team also hopes to popularize its philosophy in its own country.

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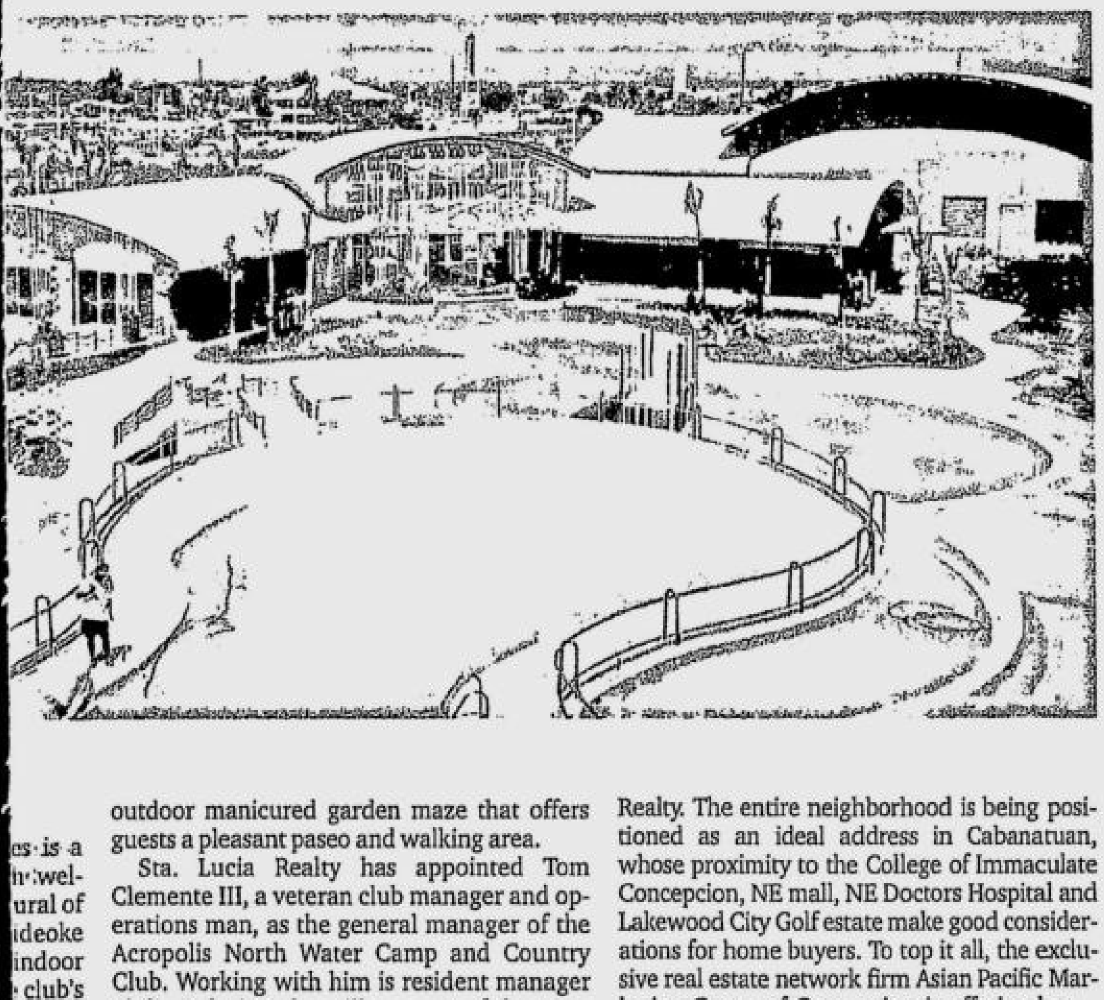
raction in Cabanatuan City



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outdoor manicured garden maze that offers guests a pleasant paseo and walking area.

Sta. Lucia Realty has appointed Tom Clemente III, a veteran club manager and operations man, as the general manager of the Acropolis North Water Camp and Country Club. Working with him is resident manager Philip Balaria, who will tax part of the team supervising the club's day-to-day operation.

Acropolis North Water Camp is within a posh residential area, also developed by Sta. Lucia Realty. The entire neighborhood is being positioned as an ideal address in Cabanatuan, whose proximity to the College of Immaculate Concepcion, NE mall, NE Doctors Hospital and Lakewood City Golf estate make good considerations for home buyers. To top it all, the exclusive real estate network firm Asian Pacific Marketing Group of Companies, is offering lots—180, 240, 300 square meters—for only P3,000 per square meter. Asian Pacific has sold more than 50 percent of the estate.

The environmentally responsible builder

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

ANY construction project, especially a large one, can have an effect on the surrounding environment. An environmental management plan is necessary to enhance the positive effects of a project as well as to lessen the adverse impacts.

Depending on the type of structure, its specific location and the method and type of construction, an infrastructure project will have an effect on its surrounding environment. Owners, designers and builders should properly address the issues so as to have an environmentally acceptable infrastructure.

Environmental effects

The various effects of a construction project to the environment can come in various forms:

- **Ecological Impacts**—If a project would be built in a highly vegetated area, loss of plants and vegetation coupled with wildlife changes can be detrimental. The removal of the vegetative cover will expose the soil which in turn can be eroded significantly especially during times of heavy rainfall. Wildlife in the area can also be affected and rare species of animals may no longer be seen after the completion of a project.
- **Socio-economic Impact**—A project in an area can displace the residents and measures to relocate and lessen the impact on their way of life should be considered. The socio-economic impact analysis would assess the physical and economic displacement of the residents of an area. Relocation strategies should also be adequately addressed.
- **Noise Pollution**—A construction project involves the delivery of construction materials that will be brought in by trucks that would create noise in the work area and its surroundings. Construction equipment that will be used in the project will also create noise in the area. Residents in the area might be disturbed by the noise during construction and measures to reduce this noise will have to be considered.
- **Air Pollution**—Exhaust fumes coming out from delivery vehicles, heavy equipment, batching plants and temporary staging areas can affect the atmosphere and affect the quality of air in the area. Trucks passing through dirt roads, cement handling at the site, excavation and earth-moving operations can induce heavy dust generation. The generation of dust during construction should be assessed and its impact on the environment be evaluated.

The air quality surrounding a construction project can be affected due to the increased activity of the construction work at the site. This includes exhaust emissions from fuel-burning machinery that include trucks, bulldozers and even temporary generators that are commonly used during the start of construction when electricity is not yet available.

The suspended particles or dust within the atmosphere can significantly increase during the construction process.

- **Traffic Congestion**—The construction of a facility can affect the traffic patterns in an area and should also be addressed. Some roadways might have to be closed to vehicular and even pedestrian traffic. Ways on how to improve the traffic flow by rerouting or even road widening should be studied carefully.
- **Disposal of Construction By-products**—A structure, during construction, will emit out waste that can either be in the form of solid wastes as excess products of its processes, liquid by-products and even gas that includes exhaust fumes from its factories. These waste materials should be properly disposed in the identified disposal sites. The long-term effects of these wastes should be studied.
- **Impact on Erosion**—Clearing a site for construction will involve scraping the ground that can have a very significant impact on the area. The loose ground can become potential sediments that can run through the streets and damage the drainage systems of the area.
- **Groundwater Contamination**—If waste products are recklessly disposed off into an open area, the groundwater can easily get contaminated. Contaminated groundwater in an area can have significant effects on the plant life and drinking water quality.

The primary source of groundwater contaminants during construction is due to the operation of heavy equipment in the area. When these machines are serviced, lubricating oils are sometimes thrown into the ground and these surely will affect the quality of the groundwater.

There are many more reasons on what a construction project may do to the environment. The items mentioned earlier are just some of the most common ones.

Management plan

To control the effects of the construction project on the environment, the owner, designer and contractors should be responsible in the successful implementation of an environmental management plan.

There is no project that will not affect the environment at all. If it is found during the assessment stage that a specific environmental concern should be addressed, mitigation measures should be put in place.

Government regulations

Depending on the magnitude of the construction project, the necessary environmental clearances and permits need to be obtained from the designated government agencies.

You may ask your planner or designer to prepare all the necessary documents and requirements in order for you to secure these permits and clearance certificates.

Professional help

Making sure that your construction project would not adversely affect the environment would involve the assessment and detailed study by a competent environmental professional.

Different specialties are required to address the various environmental concerns. Make sure that you get competent and qualified advice from the professional of your choice.

Final Note—A construction project can have positive as well as negative impacts on the environment. Construction work drives economic activity and is a vital part of a strong economy because it generates jobs and improves a nation's infrastructure. The objective of an environmental management plan for a construction project is to enhance the positive effects and reduce, if not eliminate, the negative effects of new construction.

Caring for the environment is something that we have to do not just because we have to comply with government regulations but we want to have a clean and safe environment that we will pass on to future generations. As the popular real estate adage says—The Best Investment on Earth Is Earth Itself. Let us all become responsible builders.

(Alexis A. Acacio is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines. For comments and advice you may reach him at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph or call 952-0684.)

MARIO A. ORETA

A maverick with a vision

WHEN leading property developer Mario A. Oreta, president and chief executive officer of the joint-venture firm Mancon Berhad-Constant Builders and Development Corp. (Mancon-CBDC), launched La Finca Farm and Country Resort in Lipa City, Batangas last year, he introduced a unique concept in residential development.

A concept drawn from Oreta's own personal aspirations, "I was a slave of the corporate world. I personally longed for a green environment where the air is fresh and there are plants and flowers everywhere. I know my friends and peers want the same lifestyle." The growing demand for such a lifestyle proves an important opportunity for Oreta. La Finca then became a fruition of his vision: beautiful homes built within a quiet, well-secured residential and farming community.

Maverick move

The concept of La Finca seemed not so lucrative during the time it was launched by Oreta.

The markets were down and prospects were low but Oreta seemed unfazed by the grim economic situation.

He firmly believes La Finca is a blue chip investment. "Such decision to open La Finca is not really maverick, just a little bit more imaginative and novel. I believe our target market has the money but they are simply more prudent and keenly looking for wise investments."

Wiser but not poorer

Oreta explains his new project was hardly affected by the decline of interests in real estate ventures. According to him, the so-called political and economic turmoil did not make La Finca's target poorer, only wiser.

Oreta points out that wiser means putting financial resources on investments vehicles that are, at best, recession proof.

ORETA and his grandson

"A piece of property that is only 90 minutes away from Metro Manila and even closer to one of the best golf courses in Asia is definitely recession proof." Oreta also says the value of real estate property in the Philippines hardly ever plummets. Values merely reach a plateau but eventually resume an upward direction.

Reshaping modern living

In the '80s and '90s, condominium living was a fad. But in recent years, the changing lifestyles of Filipinos also altered their needs and wants when it comes to buying a home.

Recognizing the change, Oreta says: "I think executives have begun to feel that living in a condo does not allow them to completely get away from the pressures of the workplace. It seemed like they're moving from one office building to another. The La Finca lifestyle helps them get away from the stress without having to be far away from the workplace. It is a retreat but not an escape."

A fully managed farm

Owning a home at La Finca provides a fully managed farm with seedlings provided by its very own greenhouse and nursery. Residents are given a wide variety of choices of crops and ornamental plants.

The nursery supervises the selection, propagation, growing and care of the garden. It also utilizes an Israeli-drip irrigation system, the latest in farming technology, which ensures the produce of green vegetables and herbs are guaranteed fresh for picking.

Oreta also says full-time agronomists and horticulturists are on hand to make sure the plants grow and bear fruit. La Finca also helps residents sell their own produce with a selling activity called Pick and Pay.

A country lifestyle

La Finca boasts not only of a quaint residential and farm community but also resort amenities of class A development complete with a country club, restaurant, infinity pools and spa, among others. What's more, it is only five minutes away from Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club.

La Finca also has ample supply of water, electricity, PLDT, cable TV and Internet connections and in close proximity to a hospital, schools and all fast-food establishments.

Oreta considers La Finca a fulfillment of every stressed-out businessman's dream of living in a farm—only this time, he can do that even before retirement.

Definitely a good buy

In terms of cost, La Finca offers reasonable packages.

But the best guarantee, Oreta says: "I am a convert of the La Finca lifestyle. I have built my home there. I will tend to my garden while I manage the continued development of the property. To me, this is the best guarantee that I can offer to our buyers."

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COLUMBARY PROJECTS

1 of brighter spots in real estate market

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WITH REAL estate becoming more expensive and Filipinos starting to adopt a more pragmatic approach to honoring their dead, columbary projects have emerged as one of the brightest spots in the real estate market.

Columbary comes from the Latin word "columbarium," place for the depository of ash of the cremated body in ancient Rome. So instead of Filipinos getting a plot of land in traditional memorial gardens, many are opting to get a small space in a columbary where they can leave the ash of their loved ones.

Roland T. Redoble, developer of the Columbary of Sto. Niño de Cebu owned by the Augustinian Fathers in Quezon City, explained that it took a while for Catholics to take on the concept of cremation and of columbary projects, as it was only in 1983 that the Church sanctioned the practice.

There were also concerns that simply putting ashes of loved ones in a columbary space would take away part of the solemnity or our tradition of honoring the dead.

Different kind

Redoble said the Augustinian fathers and his firm Redoble Development Corp. took these concerns into account when they came up with the design for the Columbary of Sto. Niño de Cebu at the San Agustin Seminary Campus in Quezon City.

"What we want is to destroy the impression in the market that putting a loved one in a columbary would be different from putting him or her in a traditional memorial garden. We tried to do that by designing a different kind of a columbary," Redoble said in an interview.

Unlike other columbary projects sprouting in Metro Manila and in key urban centers, for instance, the Columbary of Sto. Niño de Cebu is in the middle of a one-hectare open space which will have a chapel adorned with commissioned artwork and designed for contemplation.

Perpetual fund

Under the chapel would be the columbary units, and each vault, which measures 12" by 14" by 16", could accommodate up to four urns of a prescribed size.

Part of the proceeds from the sale of the units, Redoble said, would be used by the Augustinian Fathers to sustain the operation of the San Agustin major seminary. They are targeting a perpetual fund for the seminary of at least P120 million.

The project was launched in November last year, and the group would sell about 21,400 vaults. Prices range from P48,000 to P130,000 depending on the vault's location. Columbary units at eye-level are usually the most expensive.

Redoble said that it would still take time before more Filipinos prefer cremation over traditional burial methods. Figures show that only 3 percent of Filipinos are cremated compared to as much as 48 percent in countries such as the United States and Canada.

"But there will certainly be a shift in orientation because of convenience, and at the same time without sacrificing our requirement for a dignified wake," Redoble said.

UN Gardens blends with changing face of Manila

THE "BUHAYIN ang Maynila" program spearheaded by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and the city council is bringing back the beauty and charm of one of the country's oldest and most historical cities.

From the imposing Grecian columns in Plaza Miranda to the well-landscaped Plaza Moriones in Tondo and Plaza Dilao in Paco, from a spic-and-span Lacson underpass to a boardwalk that has transformed Roxas Boulevard into a scenic dining and leisure strip, Manila is slowly but surely reclaiming its old glory even as it continues to evolve into a modern urban center.

Home to the country's most important government, social and educational institutions, the city also hosts a number of business, industrial and commercial centers and a population estimated at 1.6 million.

6-cluster housing

Also doing its share in painting a pleasant image of the city in metamorphosis is UN Gardens, a joint project of township developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc., and the Manila city government.

This six-cluster, P194-million housing project offers Manila government employees and residents an affordable way to improve their way of living in a well-planned community that blends well with the changing face of the city.

UN Gardens enjoys a vantage location at the corner of Cristobal and Huseng Batute Streets near United Nations Avenue in Paco district.

Targeted for completion by 2004, UN Gardens is made up of six residential clusters of a refreshing, contemporary architecture overlooking a landscaped garden and a children's playground.

Among the features of its spacious one- to three-bedroom units are cement-finished floors, ceramic-tiled toilet-baths and a sink-equipped kitchen counter.

Every unit comes with a provision for television lines as well as individual metric and water meters while a wall-mounted fire hose cabinet and fire extinguishers are provided on each floor for the residents' safety.

Facilities, services

The community is provided with facilities and services such as a water cistern and overhead tank for each tower and parking slots located at the ground level.

A guarded entrance gate and well-lighted perimeter walls assure homeowners of a high standard of security and privacy while community stores and shops located within the complex supply residents with everyday goods and a variety of services.

Exclusively for Manila government employees and residents, UN Gardens is available through affordable home-financing schemes payable up to 20 years from Pag-Ibig, DBP, Landbank and other private lending institutions.

Bank participates in Filinvest exhibit

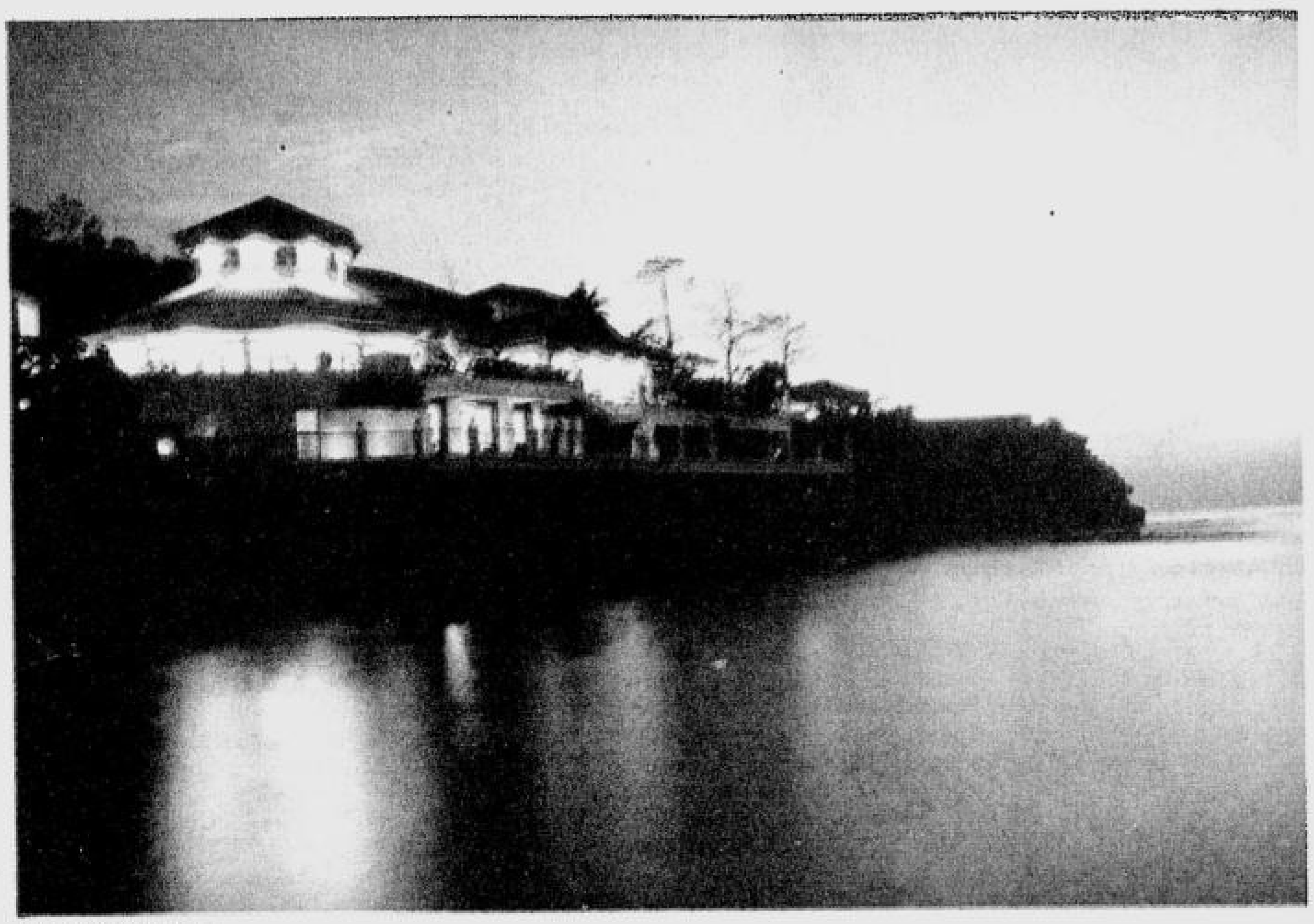
EAST West Banking Corp. continues to bring "good options" and inspire "better decisions" to Festival Mall-Alabang shoppers as it participates in the ongoing real estate exhibit of Filinvest Corp.'s Property Fair.

East West Bank occupies a booth for its Home Suite Loan manned by the bank's dependable account officers, all ready to answer queries and give advice to aspiring homeowners who are interested in securing housing loans with the bank. To run until July 31, the exhibit is located at Level 2, Carousel Court of the Festival Mall.

East West Bank's Home Suite Loan offers five affordable and flexible loan programs, One is LotAcquire which enables the client to buy a residential property payable within 10 years. There is also the HomeAcquire which allows one to acquire his own house, townhouse or condominium.

The HomeConstruct program is ideal for the growing family that wants to move to a bigger home, while HomeImprove is the best option for renovations and home expansions. HomeFlex is perfect for those who want to convert their real estate assets into cash for business or other investment opportunities.

East West Bank's participation in the exhibit forms part of the bank's plans to make its products and services more accessible to the public via mall tours.


CLUB Punta Fuego

Filbarcelo named to manage operations of Club Punta Fuego

LANDCO Pacific Corp. and Roxaco Land Corp., developers of Peninsula de Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego, the exclusive beach residential communities in Nasugbu, Batangas, recently appointed FilBarcelo Hotels & Properties Management Corp. to manage operations of Club Punta Fuego.

Earlier both Landco and Roxaco invested equal shares in FilBarcelo as part of their strategic thrust to enter the hospitality/tourism service industry.

Maiden venture

FilBarcelo is the Philippine licensee of Barcelo Hotels and Resorts. Based in Palma Majorca, Spain, Barcelo Hotels and Resorts owns and manages hotels in Europe, the United States, Africa and Latin America with the Philippines as their maiden venture into Asia.

Club Punta Fuego is an exclusive membership club with facilities in both Peninsula de Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego. With FilBarcelo's entry, the partners assure themselves of assimilating the appropriate technology and skills required to profitably operate hotel and resort property along international standards.

"We have been looking for a partner who understands what Punta Fuego stands for and who has the capability to provide the level of service that our members and homeowners expect from us," said Pedro Roxas, chair of the board, Club Punta Fuego Inc.

Management capabilities

"We have been impressed by the management capabilities of the Barcelo Group and we are confident that the group will be able to penetrate the region with its brand of excellent service and quality standards," said Alfred Xerez-Burgos of Club Punta Fuego Inc.

FilBarcelo holds the Philippine and Asian trademarks to use the Barcelo quality standards in its hotel and resort operations including its advance reservation and property management systems, sales networks, promotions and manuals, policies and procedures.

FilBarcelo at present manages the Taal Vista Lodge in Tagaytay, Barcelo Pearl Farm Island Hotel in Davao, Barcelo Sarabia Manor Hotel in Iloilo, Barcelo Asturias Hotel in Puerto Prinsesa, and Barcelo Eagle Point Hotel in Anilao, Batangas. It has plans to manage other hotels in various parts of the country and eventually in other parts of Asia, such as Thailand, Indonesia and China.

CPAC Monier leads concrete roof tile mart

CPAC Monier Philippines Inc., a partnership of two of the world's leaders in roofing solutions, has emerged as the new leader in the local roof tile market as more and more major property developers and architectural firms now prefer to use its roof tiles in their projects instead of the usual galvanized iron (GI) sheets.

Rodolfo Bueno, general manager of CPAC Monier Philippines, said their company now accounts for more than 50 percent market share of total roof tiles sold nationwide, dislodging direct competitors that had started in the business locally decades ahead of them.

CPAC Monier Philippines was established in 1998 as a partnership between Lafarge of France, the world leader in roof tiles, and the Siam Cement Group of Thailand. Its production plant in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, started operations in 1999 and has a capacity to produce up to two million tiles per month.

More practical

Bueno attributed the success of CPAC Monier roof tiles in the Philippines to the fact that the material is more practical and suited to the country's tropical weather because it does not generate additional heat during summer, unlike GI sheets.

CPAC Monier roof tiles are also rust-proof, thus eliminating costly repairs and maintenance that are common when using GI sheets. The product carries a 25-year warranty, an assurance that CPAC Monier roof tiles are of the highest quality.

Architect Arnel Nacor, CPAC Monier's marketing and sales manager, said major developers that are using CPAC Monier roof tiles in their projects include Ayala Land Inc., Robinsons Land Inc., Filinvest Land Inc., Megaworld Properties and Holdings, PRO-Friends Inc., Jardine Land, Laguna Properties and Holdings Inc., VV Soliven, BF Citiland Corp., DMCI, Pilar Development and Asiatic Development.

Nacor said CPAC Monier roof tiles are ideal not only for residential and housing projects but also for commercial developments and even institutional structures such as churches and schools because of their affordability and durability as well as their esthetic value.

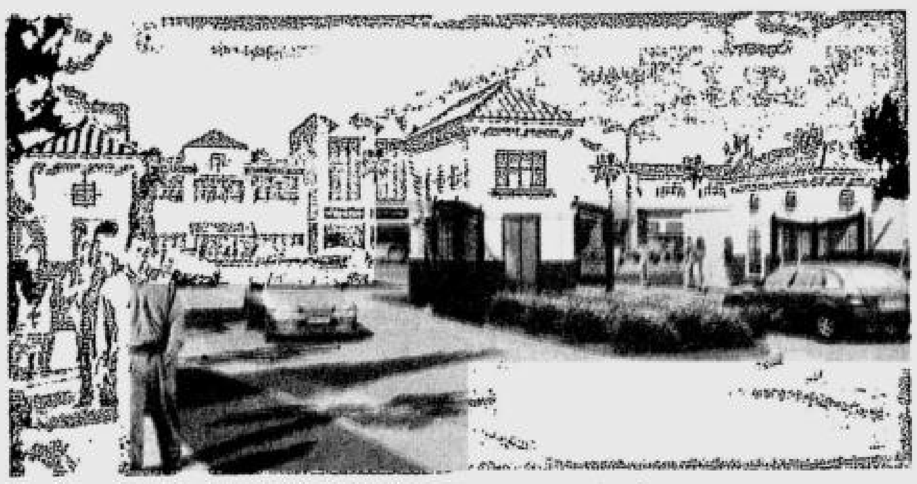
New subdivision awaits boom in Southern Metro

LOCATED in the one of the fastest growing areas in the metropolis, the Verdana Homes community in Southern Metro Manila will soon feature still another attraction, a commercial area for retail and service-oriented establishments.

Developed by Ayala Land Inc.-subsidiary Community Innovations Inc., Verdana Village Center is a 1.8-hectare commercial strip with an initial 18 lots for sale. It is expected to host restaurants, convenience stores, entertainment, educational and training facilities as well as sports, medical and recreational establishments.

Phenomenal take-up rates

Verdana Village Center completes the offerings of the 25-hectare Verdana Homes which exhibited phenomenal take-up rates despite uncertain market conditions in 2002. By year-end, at least 50 homes in the Verdana community will be ready for occupancy and another 240 lots ready for construction will have been turned over to the buyers. Residents of the growing community represent a ready market for commercial establishments that will locate to the Verdana Village Center.


THE 1.8 -HECTARE Verdana Village Center is expected to host restaurants, convenience stores, entertainment and training facilities as well as sports, medical and educational establishments.

Along a major diversion road that will soon link the booming Alabang area to the Greater Cavite area, the Verdana Village Center will also benefit from the traffic which will be generated by this new route. Daang Hari, as the thoroughfare is named, is a 14-kilometer national road that begins at the Alabang-Zapote Road in Muntinlupa and traverses Barangay Molino in Bacoor which now hosts 15,000 households. It will end at the Aguinaldo Highway and serve as a major road connection between Cavite and the South Luzon Expressway.

Pioneering commercial site

Says Jonathan Umali, CII project development head: "Verdana Village Center is an ideal, pioneering commercial location." The layout of the commercial subdivision promotes accessibility. It will be managed by Ayala Property Management Corp., another Ayala Land subsidiary that has over 30 years experience in the management of commercial centers.

Average lot size of regular Verdana Village Center lots is 285 sq. m. while special lots range from 900 to 2,656 sq. m. Special lots have been earmarked for gasoline station complexes with auto-related shops and convenience stores. Designed to complement a master-planned community, the Verdana Village Center is directly across from the main entrance of Verdana Homes.

Valencia cites revitalized housing sector

FORMER REP. Rodolfo G. Valencia, chair and chief executive officer of the RGV Group of Companies, sees a revitalized housing sector as President Macapagal-Arroyo gears up her administration's housing program as a vital instrument to push the country's economic development.

Valencia, a three-term governor of Oriental Mindoro, said the country's real estate industry is persistently showing indications of encouraging recovery. "The upward trend in the industry's performance cannot be ignored by anybody at present," Valencia pointed out.

License to sell

"One of the signs," Valencia added, "was that the license to sell issued by the HLURB from January to April this year increased by a whopping 233 percent. That means more high-rise residential projects are coming into the market."

Valencia, a recipient of the "Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award" on housing, also noted that the recent response of middle- and upper-class buyers to high-rise residential units being offered in the market was phenomenal. He said residential condos along the Makati business district have a 90 to 95 percent take-up rate at present.

According to Valencia, even demand for office spaces in the Makati and Ortigas business districts has been noticeably increasing. Inquiries from international call centers and relocating embassies accounted for the bulk of recent demands.

Encouraging growth

Valencia mentioned the encouraging 4.5 percent growth of the economy in the first quarter as the main factor affecting the industry's robust performance. He expressed confidence that under President Macapagal's leadership, the robust economic growth could be sustained the rest of the year.

Valencia used to be a three-term congressional representative. He heads 11 real estate-based corporations and is a recipient of various national and international awards.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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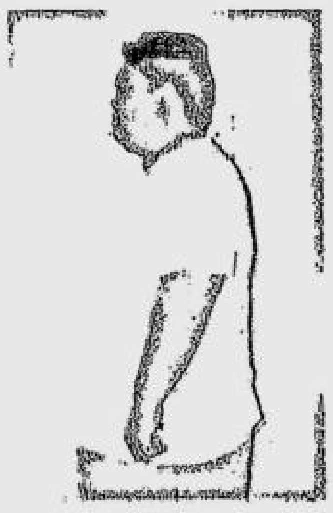
FOURTEEN months after the surgery, Dr. Romer Michael Mateo gets a new lease on life.

Fat-free and happy after 36 years

Through a last-resort procedure called bariatric surgery, Dr. Romer Mateo finds a solution to his life-long battle with obesity


SURGERY day, March 2002

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Randy Hormillosa

"WHEN you're morbidly obese, you tend to be a contented cow," say Dr. Romer Michael Mateo, ER physician of St. Luke's Medical Center. "Resigned *ka na. 'Mataba na ako*. I'm enjoying my life.'"

He should know. He used to be one.

For this once heavyweight 5'7" man, life was no picnic—not when no wristwatch would fit his wrist, no tape measure would wrap around his waist and no ordinary weighing scale would stand his weight.

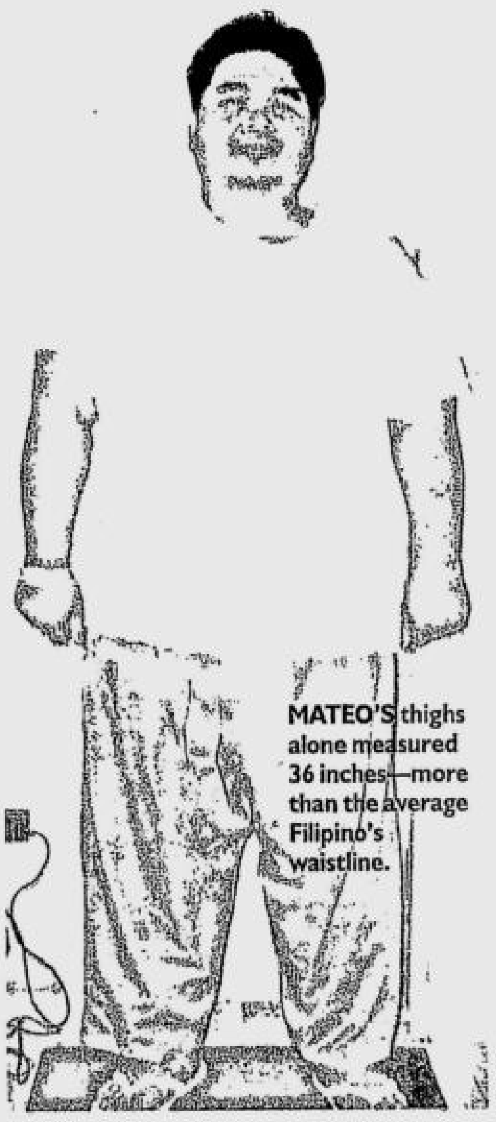
That his vital statistics were a sin would be an understatement. His thighs alone measured a staggering 36 inches—more than the average Filipino's waistline.

A simple task like watching movies required strategic planning. He had to practically wiggle his way to fit into a cinema seat, sliding one butt cheek in before squeezing the other. "*Kahit lumindol hindi ako makakaalis du'n!*" he recalls.

He couldn't seat himself on Jollibee's planted seats without getting squashed between it and the table. During his first airplane ride, extension seatbelts were needed to snap him to his seat—and that was an international flight.

Over time, Mateo admits to developing a fear of public seats. But then, only he could drive a car hands-free, even snacking along

FAT-FREE/ D3


MATEO'S thighs alone measured 36 inches—more than the average Filipino's waistline.

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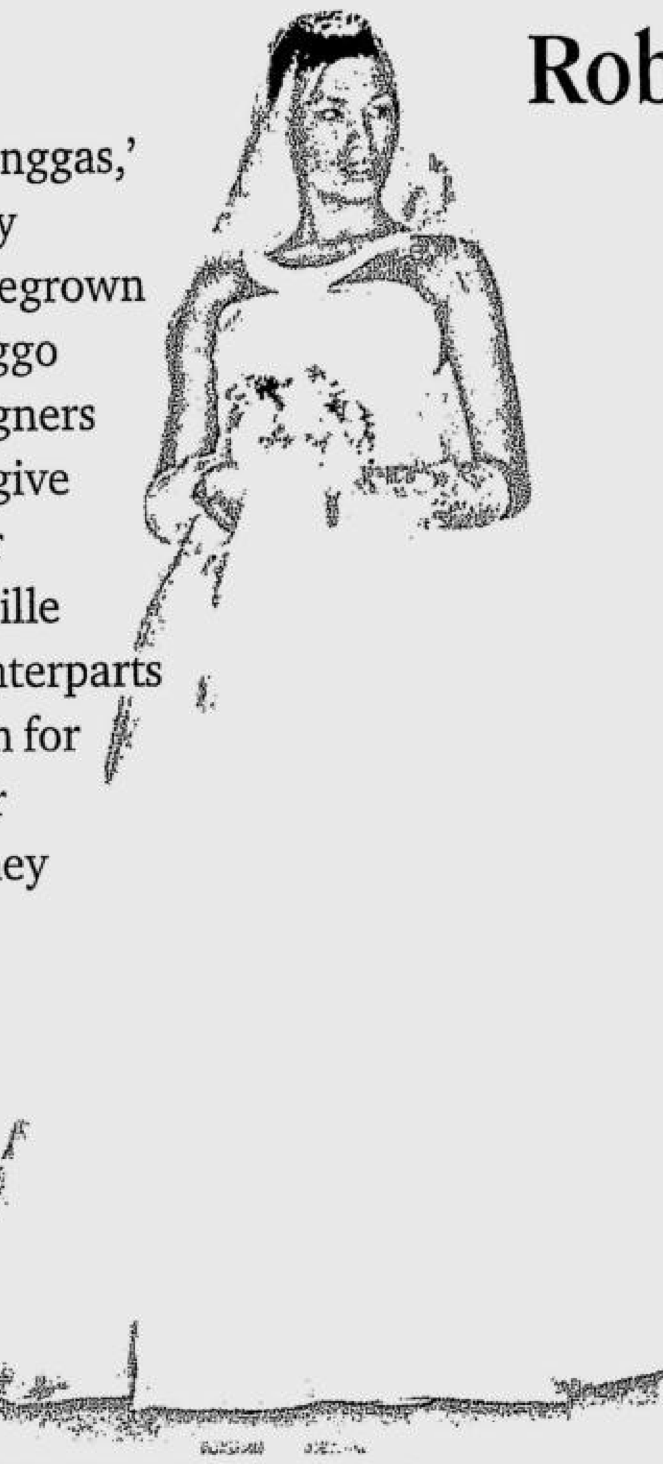
MOI with Robinsons Place Iloilo's leasing officer Genevieve Rea, designer Mel Varca and models

ONE of the best! Eric de los Santos had the audience endlessly applauding his gowns.

Yes, 'palanggas,' many homegrown Ilonggo designers can give their Manille counterparts a run for their money



SIMPLE ELEGANCE. Bridal gown by Jaki Peñalosa

Robinsons Place Iloilo hosts splashy bridal fair

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on Kodak Max

THE ONE-OF-A-KIND and always-ahead-of-the-pack Robinsons Place Iloilo recently brought together the city's top fashion designers, image artists, stylists, wedding providers and dealers for the Wedding Rituals and Bridal Fair, *palanggas*.

Robinsons' mega secret weapon, the mall's workasonic manager and terrific organizer **Ditas L. Taleon**, was cool in varying shades of blue during the launching of the exhibit.

DTI regional director **Dominic Abad**, DOT regional director **Edwin Trompeta** and Vismin regional manager of Red Ribbon **Rosauro Paraiso** (all in Barong Tagalog) snipped the ceremonial ribbon under a flower-and-fern-bedecked white canopy, to the applause of the exhibitors, invitees and tons of onlookers on different floors of the mall.

In a brief speech, *moi* told Metro Iloilo's movers, shakers and achievers, "You don't have to go far to make your wedding come true. All you have to do is visit the bridal fair here at Robinsons Place Iloilo as you have some of the best talents in your own backyard."

The best talents included **Roy Sesbreño, Eric de los Santos, Bo Parcon** and **Jaki Peñalosa; Sol Fernandez** and **Don Protacio**; and **Mandy Salcedo, Nonoy Jaranila, Francis Ian Chua, Angelette Borja-Ragus** and **Mel Varca**, all outdoing each other with their collections.

They were joined by **Jasmine Castelo** and **Claire Jarantilla**. London-trained Jasmine mounted her pristine white gown on a metal gasoline container and displayed it with a Harley Davidson motorcycle. The avant-garde Viviene Westwood-inspired body-hugging bustier silk gown had a bustle and a sweeping train and was edged with black velvet.

Claire, the Ben Farrales awardee for best design during the 2003 Ms. Dinagyang beauty contest, showed a Vera Wang-inspired off-white gown with fitted bodice and an A-line skirt with a long train, which had detailed and intricate beadwork. For contrast, she dressed her bridesmaid in purple!

I must admit that many of the designers can give some of Manille's new pack a run for their money, *palanggas*.

It was one-way heavy traffic from one exhibit booth to another, while we nibbled on the cakes, cookies and drinks from Red Ribbon being distributed by a roving service crew.

At the Red Ribbon display area, *moi*'s favorite was "Sea of Romance." It was a six-layered blue-colored rum butter or carrot cake decorated with sea shells, sea horses and starfish. Its description was: "Let our romance take us into the horizon... weathering any storm that shall befall us... on our romantic journey." Natch!

Hotshot namedroppables making the scene, *palanggas*, included society ladies **Imelda C. Florete, Amelita Lazarraga** and **Ruth Javelosa**, Panay News marketing director and society editor **John B. Castigador** and events planner **Nonoy Ybiernas**.

Like any swinging city, Iloilo was no exception when it comes to gossip. *Moi* got an earful of whispered scandals among the best hot names and politicians.

So, *palanggas*, what else is new? Actually nothing, so I just batted my eyelash.

The Dish on Cris

For a teenager on a break, pop singer and theater actress **Cris Villonco** is working much too hard. She's waxing her third album, doing a third music video and hopping from one guesting stint to another in television shows, dahlings.

Cris has crammed all these, including catching up with friends and famille, in her three-month vacation from her first year of studies at Sarah Lawrence, an esteemed liberal arts college in the US. For her first year, Cris chose to focus on music, literature and psychology.

"Anna," as Cris is called in school, is of course a popular singer in Manille. Though not wanting to make a big fuss out of it, Cris did yield at one time to showing her CD and portfolio to her curious and amused dormmates.

"I'm no Britney," she told them. "I'm not a big star."

But critics who saw Cris' performance in the musical "Alikabok" last year, where she played a young revolutionary caught between her father's wishes and her country's needs, had only high praises for the young singer-actress.

Well, *palanggas*, here it is. Before she jets back to the US to begin her sophomore year, Cris will strike up the band in a rare evening of old ballads and upbeat retro tunes at Power Plant Mall's Dish on July 31 and Aug. 14 at 8 p.m.

With special guests **Jose Mari Chan, Johnny Velasquez** and 17:28, Cris promises an evening where everyone can just "curl up, sing along, and get into that in-love feeling."

PLDT, Siemens and Swatch are presenting "Cris Villonco at Dish," in cooperation with Directories Philippines Corporation, Malayan Insurance, Manila Memorial Park, PDI, Samsung and Rustan's.

Stage direction and script are by **Gina Godinez**, with musical direction by **Mel Villena**. This is a production of MXN Inc. for the benefit of the Bigay Pagmamahal Foundation.

Northwest's Top 30 agents

Northwest Airlines' rah-rah bunch honored recently its Top 30 travel agents to a yummy lunch at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

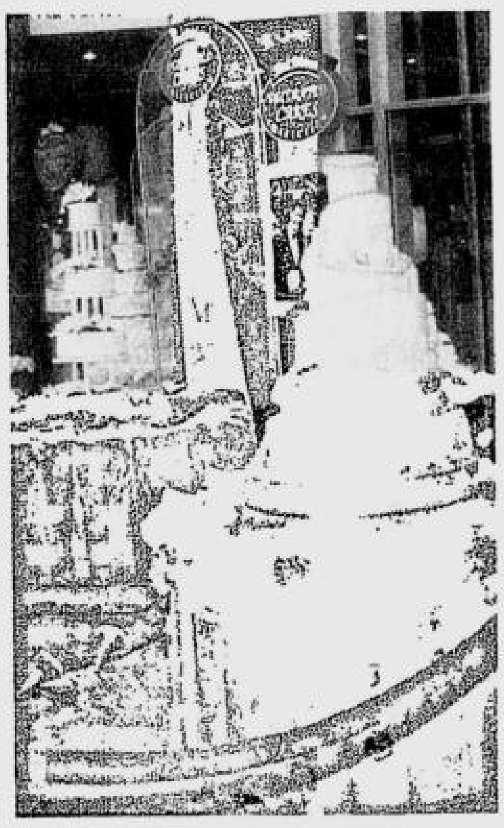
In events like this, there just had to be those distinctive "Northwest tail" glass trophies awarded to the top producers this year by popular Northwest executives **Rafael Nishihira** and **Gina Campos**.

From the top 30 list, the achievers who made it to the rarefied top 10 list included—roll call time: **Claire Santos** of Travel Savers Phils. Inc., **Annette Feliciano** of Universal Holidays Inc., **George Gaw** of Uni-Orient Travel Inc., **Raymond Tee** of Horizon/Turnavigator, **Helen Hao** of Pan Pacific Travel Corp., **Melissa Ungson** of Marsman Tours and Travel, **Gerry de Guzman** of Adventure International Tours, **Lucille Chabeldin** of Thomas Cook Phils. Inc., **Dolly Fortun** of Fiesta Tours and Travel, and Satellite Travel Inc.

For a dash of entertainment, tall balladeer and stage actor **Calvin Millado** belted out songs from the '80s and '90s as well as Broadway tunes, *palanggas*.

For giveaways, Northwest came up with authentic Japanese gift baskets loaded with sake cups and in-flight sake wines, flown in from Northwest's new Narita Terminal in Tokyo.

WELL-RECEIVED design by Roy Sesbreño

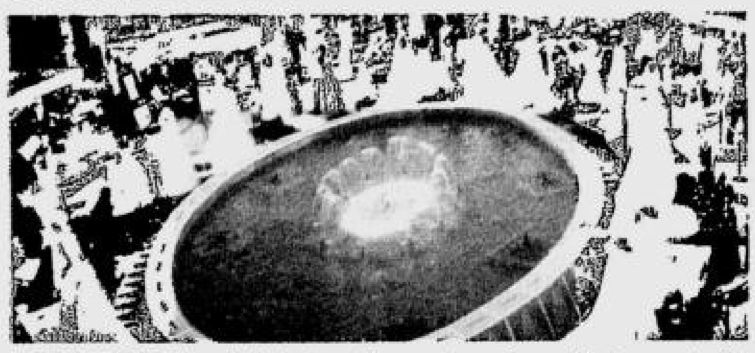


"SEA of Romance" cake by Red Ribbon

SOME members of the Designers' Guild of Iloilo: (from left) Francis Chua, Jaki Peñalosa, Bo Parcon, Sol Fernandez and Don Protacio

RIBBON snippers included DOT regional director Edwin Trompeta, popular columnist John Castigador, and Robinsons Place Iloilo's secret weapon Ditas Taleon

DTI regional director Dominic Abad



ROBINSONS Place Iloilo's fountain area transformed into a portrait of wedding gowns and must-haves during the bridal fair

OTHER winners were Adventure Travel's Gerry de Guzman, NW-ITI GM Gina Campos, Rajah Travel's Alice San Juan and NWA marketing and communications manager Adin Gonzales

CRIS Villonco with special guests Jose Mari Chan and Johnny Velasquez

NORTHWEST Airlines and InterPacific Transit Inc. management composed of NW-ITI sales and marketing director Mark Abastillas, ITI top honcho Donald I. Marshall, NWA GM Ray Nishihira and ITI executive Catalino Bondoc (far right) congratulate Annette Feliciano of Universal Holidays Inc. during the Northwest Airlines Top Producers Luncheon

Fat-free and happy after 36 years

From page D1

the way, with the steering wheel wedged securely against his jutting belly.

"I cheated myself [over the years] that I started to believe I didn't weigh more than 340 pounds," he says.

Scandalous appetite

Indeed, the mind will believe anything diligently coaxed into it. Not even his scandalous appetite could convince Mateo otherwise. On an ordinary day, for instance, he would gorge on a gallon of ice cream while waiting for supper to be served. Come mealtime, he'd consume half the rice—not "half-rice"—from a large rice cooker.

And that's not counting the plates of main dishes he'd wolf down. Before bedtime, he'd snack on Wendy's Big Classic Double, large French fries, one-piece chicken, a Frosty and a small salad.

For many, that's already one helluva full meal. But then, a bucket of KFC chicken or four sandwiches in a row was just the hors d'oeuvres for Mateo.

"One time I even ate a big wash basin-full of oysters while watching TV," he says.

Harassment

It was not unusual then that, when dining out, strangers would give unsolicited advice, such as: "*Alam mo, ang taba-taba mo na. Dapat mag*-diet *ka na*."

"How would they know how you feel? They have no right to tell you what to do," Mateo says.

Malicious whispers—all within earshot, of course—were an everyday occurrence. During one elevator ride, he overheard one of the only two other passengers say: "*Kasi naman kung naglalakad 'tong taong 'to 'di sana pumayat na.*"

"People have no idea how difficult life is when you're obese. If you think you're getting sexually harassed, try getting harassed every single day because you're so fat," he says.

Kids chanted "*taba! taba!*" whenever he walked down the streets, even in his "friendly" neighborhood. Once, an officer of the Metro Manila Development Authority helped him get a ride because bus drivers rudely refused his patronage as he stood on Edsa for more than an hour, sizzling under the sweltering heat.

In fact, nearly every PUV driver hesitated to take him in. Once, a taxi driver even stepped out of his cab to check how his tires fared with Mateo's weight.

Struggles

Well, cut the guy some slack. He did try several times to go on a diet and exercise regimen. In fact, his first gym membership was in high school.

Mateo tried all the routines—Atkins, after-6, nutrition consultation, cycling, swimming, tennis, basketball.

Once upon a time, he, too, believed in proponents of "it takes only determination" to lose weight. "They don't know how much determination it takes... That is unfair *sa mga matataba* because when the diet fails, those fat people will grow bigger and bigger. Yo-yo diet *ang resulta*," he says.

"I have tried forever [to find something that will work], but what many do not know is how difficult it is for an (abnormally) obese person to go on a diet. While most people lose five pounds eating only half a cup of rice per meal [for a week or so], I have to practically go on a starvation diet just to lose a little weight. I gain weight if I eat half-rice," he adds.

Mateo, 36, has always been heavy for the most part of his life. Since he started preschool, he had been the family's in-house Santa Claus, literally wearing the red costume every Christmas season.

But after 29 long years of playing Santa and shedding over 120 pounds, Dr. Mateo waved bye-bye last December to a role—and a life—he says he hopes to put behind permanently.

Solution

In January last year, SLMC's Dr. Hildegardes Dineros, the country's first and only bariatric surgeon, talked Mateo into undergoing bariatric or weight-loss surgery (WLS). *(See related story)*

Although his readings on WLS literature still made him skeptical about the whole process, the come-on, says Mateo, was that the operation was for free.

So in March, during a hospital convention, he placed himself under the knife, and under the microscope, so to speak. "I was being discussed while I was being operated on. The whole hospital knew about it. *'Yung tiyan ko* was there for everyone to see. They saw the several inches of fat I had... They all got to see some parts of my body I'll never get to see. *Naka*-video *'yun*," he recalls.

"The purpose of the surgery is for its long-term effect. How long are you going to live if you're obese? *Baka* in five or 10 years you're going to get diabetes, cardiac problem, cancer... Obesity exposes you to a lot of health risks."

Like it or not, he also had to drastically change his eating habits.

He says the first month after the operation was the toughest, when it took him 30 minutes to consume one tiny *siomai*. Eating too fast and too much can cause complications, such as vomiting or palpitations.

Surgery doesn't come without any drawbacks, Mateo says. "My mindset is still the same so the craving for food is still there. I'm still hungry but I can't eat too much. *Sa* buffet table *maglalaway ka. Dati matitikman mo lahat yan*—in generous proportions!"

The snail pace and small portions frustrated him no end, which eventually led to depression. That's tough for a man whose cure for depression used to be pigging out.

At one point, Mateo would rather drink, sipping slowly, that is, than eat at all. And here lies another drawback—not enough nutrients supplied to the body.

(above) **WITH HIS FAMILY** during a function; (below) **Dr. Mateo** tries on his old pants, which he says isn't his biggest size yet.

New lease

However, Mateo insists he'd still go through the surgery knowing what he knows now.

"The post-op pain is the simplest pain of all. When the wound heals, the pain is gone. But the pain of being morbidly obese is too much that what you go through after surgery is nothing."

And who wouldn't? Today Mateo sleeps better, his symptomatic syndromes such as ankle pains have disappeared, he walks faster without panting and he doesn't tire easily.

But that's just the icing on the cake. Real joy goes deeper than that: "My first taste of Girbaud, Diesel and even Levi's was four months ago. My first pair of pants [bought off the rack]! *Muntik akong maiyak nung naisuot ko yung* Girbaud *na 'yun*," he says.

This doctor is also starting to date. "Girls listen to me now. When I ask them out they say yes. Before I already knew they were going to reject me. This is new! Suddenly I don't know what to do. *Naninibago ako* because I don't go out that often."

All of a sudden, the possibilities are there, and he fumbles around, he says, not knowing what to do.

He says he faces a different problem now, problems never in his wildest dreams he thought he'd have to face, such as how to conduct a courtship, what to wear, etc. Since he buys his own clothes now, he is also becoming fashion-conscious. "They'd tell me *hindi na uso yan, eh,* [while] before any clothes would do for me."

Guys, too, are seeking his company, inviting him to outings or basketball games. Although his body image is still the fat boy that he once was, Mateo says life has never been better: "Suddenly everybody wants you... It's a welcome change. I'm a lot happier now."

He still believes in the golden rule, though. "I'm not saying bariatric surgery is the sole solution. Diet and exercise should be the main thrust in losing weight. But if they fail, please don't blame the fat guy. You're going to lose that person. *Sasama lang ang loob nya,* forget his diet, enjoy the food and go back to eating again."

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Obesity and bariatric surgery

IF diet, exercise or a combination of both fails, if your search for that "perfect" body has unwittingly turned you into the classic yo-yo dieter—gaining more weight in the long run instead of losing it—then it's probably time to reconsider your options.

At St. Luke's Medical Center, bariatric surgery or weight-loss surgery (WLS) is a service provided by an inter-disciplinary team—psychiatric, endocrine, rehab, nutritionist, cardiologist, pulmonologist.

"All these things are taken care of so that as much as possible there won't be any complications," says Dr. Hildegardes Dineros, the country's only bariatric surgeon. (There are only six bariatric surgeons in Asia.)

Bariatric surgery is a weight-loss procedure performed on abnormally obese people with BMI (body mass index) greater than 40—that's 100 pounds over the ideal weight for men and 80 for women.

Super obesity is when one has a BMI of 50 or more, or a person is thrice heavier than his or her ideal weight.

While there are many factors contributing to obesity, such as genes, the environment, eating disorder behaviors, a psychological component, an endocrine system where metabolism is altered, and social and cultural patterns, Dineros says there is also a spiritual/emotional component: "Being obese happens to an individual gradually. A person would not be obese overnight."

Statistics

Worldwide, between 20-65 percent of each population is overweight or obese, depending on location. In the Philippines, a 1998 study by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute reveals that 17 percent is overweight/obese (today it is estimated at 20-25 percent); 3.2 percent is obese and about 1 percent (or 80,000 Filipinos) is abnormally obese.

"There is a marked incidence of obese Filipino children today, especially in private schools. Obese children tend to be obese adults," he says.

Filipinos, he adds, easily embrace western culture and diets, so while 20 to 30 years ago the country's problem was undernutrition, it is now the opposite.

In year 2000, for example, WHO statistics revealed that the ratio between overweight and underweight Filipinos was about equal. Today, however, a study by the same organization shows there are more overweight than underweight Filipinos.

"It is an indication of what we're getting up to in the future," Dineros says.

Guarantee

While surgery may be a drastic measure, Dineros says it is 100-percent guaranteed to work, especially in cases where life expectancy is shortened due to excessive amount of body fat. Patients are also able to maintain acceptable weight for a lifetime—no relapses, no regaining of unwanted pounds.

"Statistics with regard to long-term control of obesity problems is really bad. Conservative treatments won't do since more than 95 percent regain their [lost] weight, if not more. Losing weight is probably okay, but maintaining it is a problem," he says.

There are about five types of bariatric surgery, which generally involves altering the digestive system to limit the amount of a person's food intake. Needless to say, it's a procedure of last resort.

With this surgery, 1/3 of excess weight is usually lost after a year, and peak weight loss is achieved after 18 months.

Among Dineros' patients, a 6'2", 400-pound patient has already lost 50 pounds in six weeks; a 4'11", 205-pound woman is now down to 134 pounds nine months after surgery.

"The surgery will alter the mechanism of food intake and digestion. Patients will feel satiated even with a small amount of food," Dineros says.

Pediatric patients

In the United States, treating pediatric patients is an issue. But Dineros is willing to operate on patients as young as 14.

In Europe, he says, procedures have been done on 12-year-olds. He believes that the surgery has to be done when indicated, and age should only be a secondary consideration.

For instance, his youngest patient is a 5'4" 14-year-old who weighs 270 pounds. "If you allow her to go on [gaining weight], which she most likely will as she grows up, *baka nasa* 400 pounds *na 'yun* when she reaches 20 years old *at madami na siyang sakit*," he says.

And while the US National Institute for Health requires that candidates for bariatric surgery must have a BMI of 40 and above, Dineros says he can operate on people with 30 BMI and above, as 40 is a norm in Europe and Australia.

"If you're strict with that criteria, then you'll be like just waiting for them to go beyond the minimum requirement," he says. (The US, he says, is strict due to its insurance system, not for health reasons. Understandably, if out of 300 million Americans 65 percent is overweight/obese, it is, indeed, a whole new world of insurance coverage.)

How safe is the procedure?

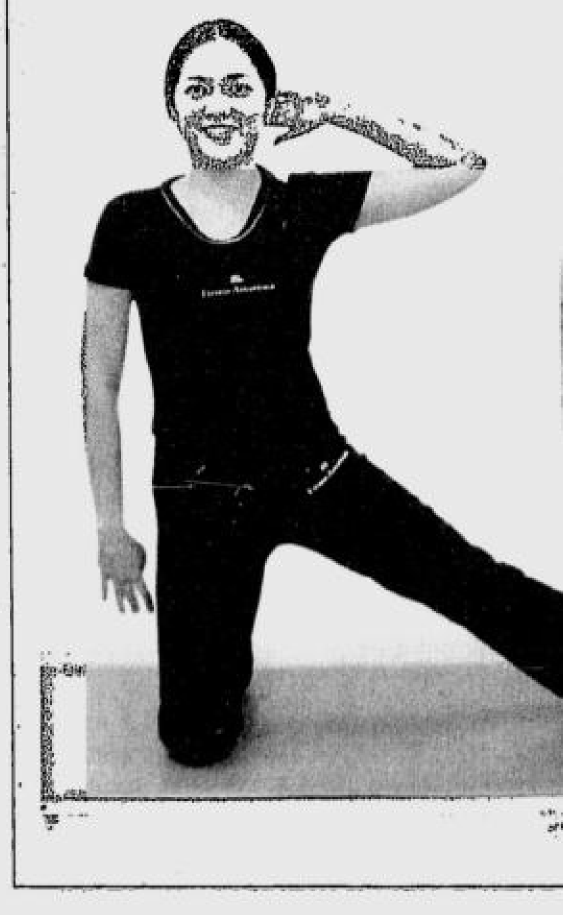
The mortality rate worldwide is between 0.1-0.3 percent. "That's like the odds of being overrun by a 10-wheeler truck," he says.

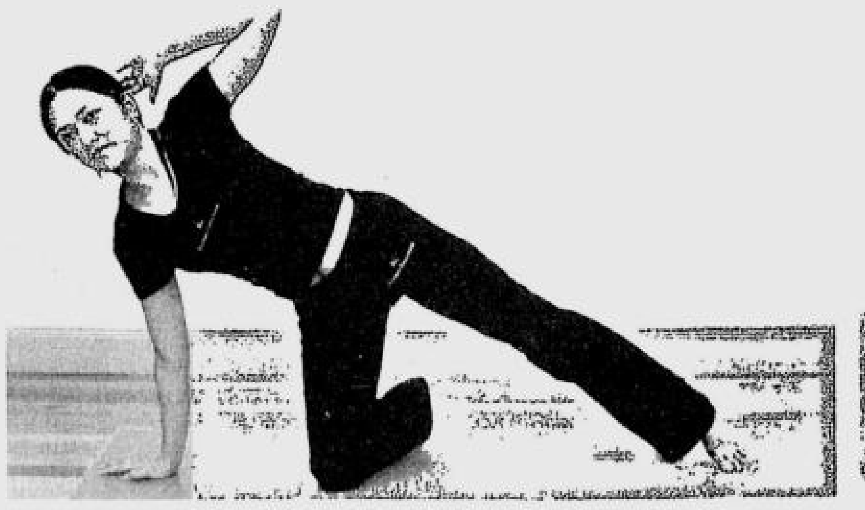
Anne A. Jambora

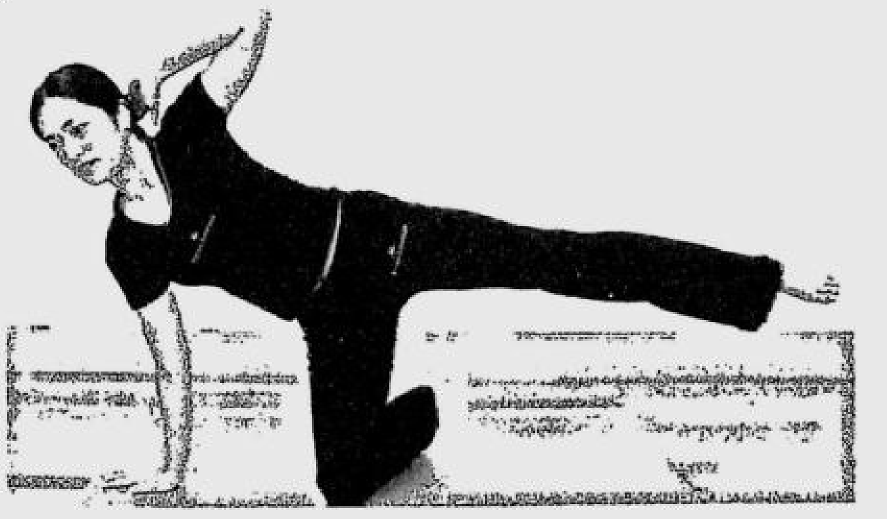
For more info on bariatric surgery, visit www.rxpinoy.com/assets/rxFUM/015hildegardesd/

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK







Kneeling side leg lift

THIS PILATES-INSPIRED exercise strengthens the shoulder, trunk and hip muscles.

Equipment:

Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Kneel on a mat with your legs together. Extend your right leg to the side and place your right hand behind your head.
2. Slowly lower yourself down and place your left hand on the mat.
3. Lift your right leg to hip level and slowly lower down.
4. Do the desired number of repetitions. Slowly straighten up and repeat on the other side.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your torso steady as you lift and lower your leg.
2. Keep your elbow facing the ceiling to make sure that your spine is not bending forward or backward.
3. Exhale as you lift the leg; inhale as you lower.
4. This is an advanced exercise. Modify it by lying down on your side.

Repetitions:

Do 10 repetitions (five with the foot pointed and five with the foot flexed).

Well and Good columnist Tina Juan is on leave.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

New health and wellness finds

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

From the latest innovations in medical technology to flavorful gourmet offerings, here are things to be happy about these days

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THERE is always a better way of doing things, but if you are not looking to change your ways, then you will miss the latest finds that can help improve your way of life.

Here are some interesting health and wellness discoveries, ranging from the medical to the gourmet!

Painless breast cancer detection

Breast cancer is a leading form of cancer among women. It is the leading cause of death in women aged 40-60. While the incidence rate of breast cancer is not declining, millions of lives are being saved by early detection and improved treatments.

When breast cancer is discovered in its early stages, the five-year survival rate is as high as 76 percent. If diagnosed at a later stage (after it has spread to one or more organs), the five-year survival rate plunges to 21 percent.

Thus, self-examination on a weekly or monthly basis is the best way to detect the problem early. The three most common screening techniques are self-examination, clinical breast exam and mammography.

Like it or not, an annual mammogram should be top priority for women 40 years old and up.

Mammography is the process of releasing a low-dose x-ray beam to a portion of the breast while it is compressed between a plastic paddle and a film holder. The result is a black-and-white negative. Women complain about the discomfort (and even pain) of such a tedious process.

An innovation in women's health maintenance comes in the form of the Biofield Diagnostic System, a 15-minute test similar to an ECG (electrocardiogram) or an EEG (electroencephalogram). The test uses sensors attached to the surface of the breast to detect any bioelectrical charge.

Biofield is non-invasive and painless. Its results are immediate and objective. It involves no radiation and it costs the same as a mammogram.

Biofield tests are designed to detect depolarized cells. Normal breast cells are like small batteries that maintain electrical charges. The cells have a positive charge outside and a negative charge inside. This is called polarization, which cancer cells tend to disrupt.

There is a prototype of Biofield at the Philippine General Hospital. Call Toby Gozar or Tito Osias at 683-0344 or 631-3037.

CPR made easy

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in adults. About 75 percent of all cardiac arrests happen at home. The typical victim is a man in his early 60s or a woman in her late 60s.

The CPRezy is designed to improve one's ability to perform a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). It is a hand-sized unit placed on the chest of the patient, emitting a tone at 100 beats per minute which indicates the correct force of compression and thus warning of rescuer fatigue.

It comes with a hygienic mask that allows mouth-to-mouth resuscitation without the risk of transferring any diseases to and from the rescuer and the patient.

Like the Biofield Diagnostic System, this product is also distributed by Biophil.

Rock therapy

Healing stones have been used for centuries in early American, Indian, Chinese and Balinese cultures to draw toxins from the body and transfer energy to the fatigued body.

Fitness First Spa offers a 90-minute therapy combining hand massage with warmed rocks that produces deep relaxation—deeper than anything a regular massage can give.

Black and smooth hand-picked stones from river beds and beaches, naturally polished by time and energized by the four elements—earth, water, fire and air—are used in this process. The result is an almost hypnotic effect on one's senses, providing profound bliss.

The rocks are properly washed and sanitized, heated in a warmer, wrapped in towels, drenched in aromatherapy oils, then placed on the soles of the feet, along the spine and forehead, and rubbed throughout the body. Sensational, to say the least.

Call 771-0828, 725-4592 or 813-0761.

Gourmet treasures

Once in a great while, a restaurant emerges that appeals to the gourmand in you while mindful of your heart-healthy standards.

Restaurant 12 (tel. 757-4568) at Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, is a haven for those who appreciate fine dining and healthy options. This resto showcases the highly-praised dishes of Marco Legasto, who worked in England for sometime.

From seabass to duck dishes to simple vegetarian salads and pastas, the food is refreshingly innovative and light. And if you are an English pudding fanatic, Restaurant 12 is the place for you. Yes, you can indulge minus the guilt.

Thank you, Elbert Cuenca, managing director of Restaurant 12.

Over at Zen (Glorietta 3), restaurant owner Maryann Tinio offers a new line of Japanese treats—vegetarian specialties that do not sacrifice that distinct Nippon flavor.

Try the Horen so-tofu, spinach salad, Hiyayako cold tofu topped with shaved fish flakes, the breaded vegetable kushi age and the king of all dishes—tofu teriyaki, a soybean cake steak like no other. Zen uses only soya oil. Call 892-6851, 892-5121.

Mini Shabu-Shabu, with its "Healthy Foods, Happy Life" tagline, offers a cook-it-yourself experience using practically no oil.

You can choose your main fare of seafood, meat or a combination platter. Or, best of all, go for a generous vegetable platter. The broth is chicken-based with no MSG, and the dipping sauce is without comparison, a flavorful delight. Call 910-3272, 536-0630 or 914-1028.

Enjoying life's pleasures is indeed a good reason to declare that life is great. But then again, being alive and embracing every moment with gratitude is reason enough.

Love and light!

Launching
DPSS NFP Joint Campaign for a Healthy Diet
June 2, 2003

CAMPAIGN FOR HEALTHY DIET

Southeast Asia Food Inc., maker of leading condiment brands, joins hands with the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines. Both promote isoflavones, the phytonutrient component of soy protein that can be found in Datu Puti soy sauce. Present during the signing were Azucena Limbo, executive director, NFP; Dr. Rodolfo Florentino, chair/president, NFP; Angie Go-Flaminiano, marketing head, Safi; and Ampy Rio, group product manager, Safi.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

If a member thinks that he has a medical emergency---and if a prudent lay person would consider that this medical situation is a true emergency---would he be able to go to the nearest emergency room for treatment?

Yes, he may. However, as we have made mention before, emergency rooms are for the care of life and limb-threatening injuries and not for routine care. Therefore, if the emergency room personnel evaluate his condition not to be of this nature, he will then be referred to a clinic for out patient services.

Meet your MEDICard Team

One of the recent additions to MEDICard's roster of medical providers is **Dr. Jennifer Abrenica-Aranzamendez.** Doctor Jen, as she has gone to be known, joined the HMO last year. She is a Medicine graduate from the University of Santo Tomas. She specializes in Obstetrics and Gynecology, which she finished at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center. Doc Jen is a member of the Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecological Society, the Philippine Medical Association and the Marikina Valley Medical Society. For consultations, members may visit her clinic at the World Citi Medical Center (formerly QCMC), Room 207 every Mondays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 1 PM and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 5 in the afternoon.

After being conferred doctor of Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, accredited specialist **Dr. Frances Judith L. Mañus** chose to specialize in the field of Pediatrics. Now more than five years into the practice of her chosen field, Doc Frances is based and renders services to MEDICard members at the Madonna and Child Hospital located at J. Serina St., Carmen, Cagayan De Oro. When she is not busy addressing the healthcare needs of her patients, she takes time to enjoy her simple joys of reading, watching movies, exercise at the gym and spending time with her family. Members may visit her clinic for consultations at room 105, Mondays to Saturdays, 2 to 5 PM.

For your dental consultation needs, members may seek the services of **Marylou Septimo-Fernandez.** Doc Malou, who joined the HMO in 1994, is a graduate of Dental Medicine from the Centro Escolar University. She now manages the Septimo-Fernandez Dental Clinic, located at the 2/F, 204 JGP Bldg., Crismar Ave., Elvinda Village, San Pedro, Laguna. She is also the chairman for continuing education of the Philippine Dental Association-Laguna Chapter and an active member of the Philippine Academy of Esthetic Dentistry. Members may visit her clinic for their consultation needs, from Mondays to Fridays, 9 AM to 12 noon and from 2 to 6 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO 9001: 2000 certified

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If we can only change one thing in the Filipino

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

Whatever political system the Philippines adopts is bound to fail, unless the consciousness of the Filipino people changes

THE SUGGESTION to change our country's form of government from a presidential to a parliamentary one is once again being revived. The arguments advanced for either one are endless.

I do not wish to be involved in a political debate. The only thing I want to point out is, it seems that whatever political system the Philippines adopts is bound to fail, unless the consciousness of the Filipino people changes. What is wrong with our country and our society is not our system of government, nor our laws, but the character and consciousness of our people.

I have often said that even if we change everybody now working in our government, from the president down to the lowest bureaucrat, and replace everybody with entirely new people, after three months the country will be back to where it was before—back to the same problem of bureaucratic inefficiency and corruption, because the new people who replaced the old ones have the same consciousness. The same thing will happen whatever form of government we adopt.

Change in consciousness

The key, therefore, to our getting out of the social and political mess we are in, is not a change either in our fundamental laws or in our government system, or even a change in the name of our country from the Philippines to Maharlika, but a change in the consciousness of our people. There simply is no other way.

I have always imagined what will bring about the change in consciousness in our people. We had a once-in-a-lifetime chance to do this when Martial Law was declared by then-President Marcos in 1971, but he and his henchmen decided to enrich only themselves. Then we had another golden chance in the Edsa Revolution of 1986. But Cory Aquino did not have the mental acumen nor the strong leadership to effect a lasting change. We had another chance to do it with Edsa 2 in 2000, but Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, although with good credentials and intentions, is a prisoner of the powers from whom she owes political favors.

So let's forget it. Another revolution will only put the final nail on the coffin of this terminally ill country. So that is not an option.

Once, in my lonely and quixotic musings on what can be done to change the fate of this potentially great nation, I came up with the idea of changing only a small aspect of the Filipino's mentality that will have a tremendous impact not only on the bureaucracy but also on our attitude toward everything we do. I read this somewhere and I thought it was brilliant. And that is, by simply being on time for every appointment we make with others, no matter how small or insignificant it may be. If we can be on time for whatever it is we do, this nation will really move forward in no time at all.

Never mind changing our government structure and system; never mind changing people in government every election. No matter who we elect as leaders, we will come up with the same banana. We only change the names of the people running the government year in and year out, but not their character or consciousness.

Can you imagine the implication of this revolutionary but very simple suggestion? Can you see the impact on the economy, society and culture if everybody in this country does everything on time, whether an appointment is with our barber or with the president of a company?

On being late

Filipino time, which is equivalent to being late or delayed, cannot be legislated away. It is only by changing our people's consciousness that this can be accomplished.

I once had a very interesting and real encounter with Filipino time, for which we are known throughout the world. Many years ago, I was in Baguio investigating Philippine healers. I met a German woman in a healer's clinic who asked if I could introduce her to other healers.

I said yes, and we agreed that I would fetch her from her hotel at 9 the next morning. Ten minutes before 9, I was already at the lobby of her hotel waiting. Knowing she was German, I expected her to be on time.

At exactly 9 a.m., she was still not around. Finally at 9:15 a.m., she appeared and apologized for her being late. I jokingly made a remark, "It is un-German like of you to be late," and she smiled and said to me, "It is un-Filipino of you to be on time."

I think it's time we changed this bad image of Filipinos. Don't you think so?

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Tel. nos.: 810-7245 or 892-6806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.